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Beast 9 비스트 나인 VOLUME [1] 값 4,500원

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BOOKING COMICS

BEAST 9 비스트 나인 VOLUME [1]

story 윤재호 art 박진환

학산문화사

Beast 9 비스트 나인

「메탈하트」「유령왕」 윤재호 × 「아크로드」「브레이커」 박진환 VOLUME [1]

신세기 한국 로봇만화의 부활!!

거대 로봇과 다수의 미소녀들이 펼치는 운명의 드라마—
컬러 12P 포함! 총 250페이지 특대 볼륨으로 최초 기동!!

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The Beauty and the Beast.
This story taking place in
far into the future—

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VOLUME [1]

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CREATING A ROBOT MANHWA HAD BEEN A DREAM OF MINE EVER SINCE MY DEBUT 10+ YEARS AGO.
A LONG-AWAITED DREAM THAT'S TAKEN SO LONG TO COME TRUE -- I PROMISE TO GIVE MY UTMOST.
AND I'LL BE WAITING FOR THE DAY WHEN A KIND-HEARTED MODELER WILL RE-CREATE THIS INTO A REPLICA MODEL~~!!

YOON JAE-HO (AUTHOR)

A BOY-GIRL LOVE, AND THEIR GROWTH~
GIANT ROBOT ACTION AND CUTTING EDGE MECHANICAL DESIGN!
IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO DRAW A ROBOT MANHWA, WHICH IS THE ROMANCE OF ALL MEN.
I THANK THE AUTHOR YOON JAE-HO FOR JOINING ME IN THIS GREAT PROJECT, AND HOPE THAT THIS PROJECT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE REVIVAL OF THE ROBOT MANHWA GENRE IN KOREA.
DEAR READERS, WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
AHJA! AHJA! FIGHTING~~!!

PARK JIN-HWAN (ARTIST)

TL NOTES:

1: FYI, GO TO HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/BEAUTY_AND_THE_BEAST FOR A REFRESHER ON NAMES/TERMS LIKE BELLE, BEAST, THE CURSE, LE PRINCE, ETC.

2: ONCE AND FOR ALL, NAMES & PRONUNCIATIONS:

A] CHOI IL-GUN: SURNAME "CHOI": "CH"+"OE" MONOPHTHONG, PRONOUNCED ALMOST LIKE CHAE OR CHE, BUT LEFT HERE IN THE BETTER KNOWN SPELLING; GUN LIKE "SUN".

B] JANG MARI: SURNAME "JANG" WITH A LONG "AH" SOUND; MARI LIKE MARIE.

C] YOO HANA: SURNAME "YOO" LIKE THE PRONOUN "YOU"; HANA WITH 2 LONG "AH" SOUNDS.

D] DUH, THE USUAL CONVENTION: ASIAN SURNAMES GO BEFORE GIVEN NAMES, AS ABOVE; WESTERN SURNAMES COME AFTER GIVEN NAMES, AS IN "BARBARA HUMBLEY".

BC BOOKING COMICS

비스트 9 1
육식공주 예그리나 1 ~ 3
유령왕 1 ~ 5
MOON 문 SUBARU Solitude standing 1 ~ 5
배가본드 1 ~ 33
용비불패 외전 1 ~ 6
프리징 1 ~ 10
헌터X헌터 1 ~ 27
팬텀 프린세스 VS 1 ~ 3
불꽃의 인페르노 1 ~ 6
잭 프로스트 1 ~ 5
용비불패 애장판 1 ~ 15
이누야샤 1 ~ 56
첫사랑한정 1 ~ 4
베리타스 1 ~ 10
총바치 1 ~ 5
인게이지 1 ~ 3
스트리트 잼 1 ~ 5

VOLUME
[1]
story 윤재호 art 박진환
Beast 9
비스트 나인

CONTENTS

MAGIC 01. Accidental contact · 3
MAGIC 02. Change · 55
MAGIC 03. 9th Corps · 87
MAGIC 04. LUKE & JENNY · 111
MAGIC 05. Dr. MORRIS · 147
MAGIC 06. Roar · 181
MAGIC 07. Do me a flip · 203
MAGIC 08. Inner space · 223

KID, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
WELL? CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?!
.....
CHOI... IL... GUN...

WHOA~! GOOD! HE'S OKAY!!
SURVIVOR CONFIRMED IN COLLAPSE ZONE D-7!
REQUESTING EMERGENCY TRANSPORT!
ARE YOU THE ONES... WHO SAVED ME?
THE "BEAST" IS THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU.
B- BEAST...?

THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S THE "BEAST", THE ULTIMATE WEAPON...
KUOOOOOH
OF THE "MAGIC" BRIGADE, GUARDIANS OF HUMANITY AGAINST THE "ERASER"!
MAGIC...
BEAST...
THAT ROBOT...
CAN IT DEFEAT THE ERASER THEN?
OF COURSE! THEY ARE CALLED ERASERS BECAUSE THEY ERASE EVERYTHING...
MAGIC
BUT WE ARE THE MAGIC BRIGADE THAT CAN NEVER BE ERASED!!
BEAST!!

MAGIC 01.
Accidental contact
Beast 9
비스트 나인

WHOOOOOSH
FEELS LIKE I'M TRAPPED!
#73007018, CHOI IL-GUN! THE ERASER IS HEADED YOUR WAY!
HAAAH AHHH
HAAH.
VOOOM VOOOM
ENTERING EFFECTIVE SHOOTING DISTANCE IN 5 SECONDS.
HAAH.
I... I CAN'T BREATHE!

3 SECONDS.
HUK!
2 SECONDS.
VOOOM VOOOM
HUK...!
HUK...!
1 SECOND.
WU...!
WUAAAH ...!!
FLASH
!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
VOOOM VOOOM
SHOOT IT! AND GET MOVING!!

BOOOOOOOM
MISSION FAILED
SIMULATION ENDED.
HUK.
SHAKE SHAKE
HUK...
CANDIDATE #73007018, CHOI IL-GUN.
HUK.
PSHHHHH
A SCORE OF ZERO!
BOOM
H- HOLD ON, DRILL INSTRUCTOR!
YOU COULDN'T EVEN MOVE A FINGER, LET ALONE ATTACK THE ERASER. DO YOU STILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

IN CONTRAST WE HAVE #73008103, JANG MARI, WHO SHOT DOWN 6 ERASERS.
PSSHHHH
A PERFECT SCORE!
YOU GUYS HAD BETTER FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE, AND APPLY YOURSELVES.

PERFECT SCORE, AGAIN?
AMAZING ...
MURMUR MURMUR
NO DOUBT SHE'S TAKEN THE #1 OVERALL RANKING FOR THIS EXAM.
WAIT, HANA! STOP!
YOU'RE NOT OVER YOUR FEVER YET!
YOO HANA. HAVEN'T YOU HAD YOUR TURN ALREADY...?
PLEASE, DRILL INSTRUCTOR! LET ME TAKE THE TEST AGAIN! I KNOW I CAN GET A PERFECT SCORE, TOO!
YOU FOOL... IT'S THE PILOT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF HIS OWN PHYSICAL CONDITION AT THE TIME OF THE SORTIE!
URK...!
YOU THINK A MERE COLD IS A VALID EXCUSE IN A LIFE-OR-DEATH SITUATION?!
WE'RE CONTINUING WITH THE TEST!
OI, CHOI IL-GUN! TAKE HANA TO THE INFIRMARY!
EH?!

IT'S YOO HANA, THE PERPETUAL RANK #2.
I HEARD THEY STOPPED HER TEST BECAUSE OF A COLD, RIGHT?
WELL, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEATEN MARI ANYWAYS...
OH, HEY...
CHEER UP...
SLAP
EK
STAY AWAY!
I DON'T WANT TO BE PITIED BY THE LAST PLACE LOSER!
S- SORRY...
ZOOM

CHOI IL-GUN, 18 YEARS OLD. PASSED THE BEAST SQUADRON RESERVE PILOTS EXAM ON THE 4TH TRY.
WELL, YOU CAN SEE THE RESULTS YOURSELF!
NO CHANCE WHATSOEVER! ZERO POTENTIAL!!
FOR A PILOT CANDIDATE TO HAVE CLAUSTROPHOBIA... IT'S UNHEARD OF!!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MR. VINCENT?!

GASTON
BEAST
UNLIKE THE TRAINING UNIT TYPE "GASTON", THE "BEAST" -- MAGIC'S MAIN WEAPONRY -- IS A ROBOT THAT FUNCTIONS UNDER A TEAM OPERATING SYSTEM.
IF THERE'S EVEN A SINGLE STRAGGLER, THE WHOLE SQUADRON COULD GET MESSED UP!
DESPITE YOUR REQUEST AS THE FOUNDER OF THIS ACADEMY, LETTING HIM STAY HERE IS...
EVEN SO, I WON'T BACK DOWN, MISS BARBARY.
ENRAGED
IT'S BARBARA!
.....
THAT KID IS SPECIAL.
HE'LL DEFINITELY BECOME A TALENTED PERSON, WHOM YOU WILL NEED.

AND SO...
WOULD YOU CARE TO LISTEN TO MY SUGGESTION?
HUFF.
TADADA
HUFF.
LAST-PLACE GROUP! ARE YOU ALREADY OUT OF BREATH AFTER JUST 3 LAPS?!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL PASS THE PILOT CERTIFICATIONS WITH SUCH MEAGER SPIRIT?!
SPIRIT OR NO SPIRIT, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO FREEZE UP WHENEVER THEY GRAB THE CONTROLLERS, Y'KNOW.
OI, OI... YOU CAN'T SAY THAT SO BLATANTLY~
KEKEH~
DAMMIT ...!
ARE YOU CHATTING DURING PUNISHMENT? YOU WANNA RUN 10 MORE LAPS?!
NO, SIR!!

KUAAAAH
!!
THAT'S...
A BEAST!!
IT'S A BEAST!
WHOA~ FIRST TIME SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
THE HERO, VINCENT!
I GUESS IT'S HERE TO ESCORT THAT PERSON DURING TODAY'S CEREMONIES?!
THE AWARDS CEREMONY WILL BEGIN SOON. ALL STUDENTS GATHER IN THE AUDITORIUM.

ERASER, THE MYSTERIOUS ENEMY THAT INVADED EARTH 13 YEARS AGO!!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I PRESENT TO YOU, MR. VINCENT!
APPLAUSE
짝짝짝짝짝

BEFORE THEIR OVERWHELMING POWER, THE ENTIRE EARTH NEARED THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE. BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT...
THERE SUDDENLY APPEARED EARTH'S LONE SAVIOR, THE BEAST -- THE ULTIMATE WEAPON UNIQUELY EQUIPPED TO COUNTER THE ERASER'S POWER!!
THE BEAST IS PART OF THE MAGIC BRIGADE, WHOSE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IS ALSO THE FOUNDER OF OUR LE PRINCE ACADEMY...
THAT PERSON'S THE CREATOR OF THE BEAST...
APPLAUSE
짝짝

MY STUDENTS!
ARE YOU EATING WELL?
YES SIR-
네-엣
ARE YOU SLEEPING WELL?
네에-
YES SIR-
ARE YOU...
PASSIONATE
DEVOTING YOURSELF TO MASTUR-BATION?
WHEEESH-

YOUR ANSWER ISN'T SATISFACTORY.
THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM...
HM...
DUE TO MANY YEARS OF BATTLES, TODAY'S POPULATION IS ONLY 20% OF THE POPULATION FROM 13 YEARS AGO. PRESERVATION OF OUR SPECIES IS A MAJOR ISSUE.
IF YOU DON'T GET IN ENOUGH PRACTICE NOW, THEN THE PRODUCTION RATE FOR THE SPREAD OF HUMANITY WILL...
KAHHHH?!!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH?! YOU ERO-PERVERT...!
KUOOOH
SEXUALLY HARASSING COMMANDANT...!
H-HEY...
SHOULD THE PRINCIPAL BE ACTING THIS WAY TOWARDS THE FOUNDER OF THIS SCHOOL...?
WHAT THE HECK?!
IS HE REALLY VINCENT...?!
IS HE REALLY THE HERO THAT SAVED EARTH?!
EH... THAT CONCLUDES MR. VINCENT'S ADDRESS...
WE WILL NOW HAVE THE AWARDS CEREMONY.

JANG MARI!
APPLAUSE
짝짝
JANG MARI IS 1ST PLACE, AS EXPECTED.
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, SHE'LL BECOME THE ACE OF THE MAGIC!
SINCE SHE WAS ADMITTED WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE, AND STAYED AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS, Y'KNOW.
THAT GIRL YOO HANA IS GREAT...
BUT COMPARED TO MARI, SHE'S JUST...
CLENCH
YES, SIR!
HOW ENVIOUS. IT'S NOT LIKE I WANNA BE 1ST PLACE LIKE MARI. BUT IF ONLY I COULD STAND UP THERE...
NO... IF ONLY I COULD HAVE MADE THE CUT LINE...
짝짝짝짝
APPLAUSE

BOING
!!
WHAT SPLENDID BREASTS.
EH?
C-COMMANDANT, SIR?!
BOING
BA-DUM
...!!
IF IT'S YOU...
THEN YOU CAN DEFINITELY BECOME THE "BEAUTY" WHO LIFTS THE CURSE OF THE "BEAST".

REMOVE YOUR HANDS FROM HER AT ONCE, OR ELSE...!!
OH OH OH
WHEEEEOH
ERASER WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED! ERASER WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!
OH OH OH OH
WHEEEEEEOH
OH OH OH OH
WHEEEEEEOH
TREMBLE TREMBLE
부들
부들
SIGNS OF ERASER APPEARANCE WITNESSED, 2KM TO THE EAST!
AWARD CEREMONY IS SUSPENDED. ALL STUDENTS, EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY. COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED IN POINT 351 OF THE STUDENT MANUAL WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT, IN 7 SECONDS.

KUUUUUU

VISUAL CONFIRMATION OF THE ERASER!
WHAT WAS THE SURVEILLANCE GROUP DOING, LETTING IT GET SO CLOSE WITHOUT A WARNING?!
EVACUATE THE STUDENTS, QUICKLY!

COMMANDANT!
I'LL BE WITH CATHERINE!
BRING BEAST UNIT 7 OUT OF STANDBY, AND TAKE ACTION!

THIS IS WHY I WAS AGAINST BRINGING HER OUT HERE.
IF ONLY SHE HADN'T BEEN SO STUBBORN ABOUT OBSERVING CADET CHOI IL-GUN IN PERSON...
BEAST UNIT 7, HEADING OUT!
KUOOOOH
THE DEFENSE OF THE ACADEMY IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY UNTIL BACK-UP ARRIVES!

KER-THUNK
RESTRAINTS RELEASED!
TA-THUMP
TA-DA-THUMP
BEAST, SWITCHING FROM STANDBY MODE TO BATTLE MODE!
KER-CHUK
BOOM
HURRY TO THE SHELTER! QUICKLY!
...!

GRRRRRRR

THE BEAST'S BATTLE. I WANT TO SEE IT!
IF I DO THAT, THEN...
MAYBE I COULD OVERCOME MY OWN PROBLEMS IN THE COCKPIT!
GRAB

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE!
JANG MARI?
AND THE ERASER'S TYPE?
MAGIC
WE'RE ANALYZING ITS RESONANT FREQUENCY, BUT... WE CAN'T FIND A MATCHING PATTERN!
IF IT'S HERE AFTER CATHERINE...
WHY WOULD IT MAKE ITS APPEARANCE SO FAR AWAY?
VOOOM

SHUUUNG
GO TO THE SHELTER, RIGHT NOW!
YOU GET GOING, AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I NEED TO SEE THE BEAST!
DIDN'T YOU COME HERE TO BECOME A BEAST PILOT?
WHAT IF YOU DIE HERE?!

I CAN'T BECOME A PILOT AS I AM NOW, ANYWAYS!
I NEED TO OBSERVE THIS BATTLE IN ORDER TO OVERCOME MY WEAKNESSES!
PA-CHING
PA-CHM-CHING PA-CHING
THAT'S --?!

SHUUUNG
BOOOM
A JAVELIN ATTACK?!
AH ...!
KYAAH!
CRASH
ARGH!
UNIT 7'S COCKPIT, DAMAGED!
NO RESPONSE FROM THE PILOT!
WE HAVE LOST CONTROL OF THE BEAST!

THE BEAST IS DOWN?!
AND SO EASILY!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! SO WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO US NOW?!
UREH ...!
COUGH!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON...!
AH!
IT CAN'T BE~! THE BEAST, IT'S...!!

COULD YOU QUIET DOWN A LITTLE?
M- MARI?! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I GUESS YOU'RE OKAY, IF YOU'RE THAT LOUD.
OH... YEAH...
AND SHE IS...?
SHE'S A PILOT. HER LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER IF WE DON'T GET HER SOME HELP SOON.
I DON'T THINK SHE CAN GO BACK TO THE BEAST ANYMORE.
THAT OTHER COCKPIT AND ITS PILOT ARE BEYOND HELP...
BUT THIS COCKPIT LOOKS OKAY, SO WE MAY STILL BE ABLE TO MOVE IT.
T- THEN LET'S GO CALL ANOTHER PILOT...
EACH BEAST HAS 2 PILOTS AS A STANDARD. BUT SINCE TODAY WAS AN ESCORT DUTY...
I DOUBT THERE ARE ANY PILOTS ON STANDBY, OTHER THAN THESE TWO. AND SINCE ONE OF THE COCKPITS IS DAMAGED, FURTHER BATTLE IS IMPOSSIBLE.
AT THIS RATE, THE ACADEMY WILL BE WIPED OUT.
SO IT'S UP TO US NOW.
WHAT?

WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO PILOT THE BEAST...
AND WE'LL BE THE BAIT TO LURE AWAY THE ERASER.
EH?!
H- HOLD ON! WE CAN'T DO THAT!
AREN'T YOU A PILOT CANDIDATE?! THIS IS ALSO MY FIRST REAL BATTLE, SO I NEED YOUR HELP!
IT'LL BE OKAY IF WE DO JUST LIKE WE TRAINED. WE CAN DO THIS!
N- NO, THAT'S NOT IT ...!

IT'S JUST THAT...
I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY MADE ANYTHING MOVE, EVEN IN THE COCKPIT SIMULATION!
VOOOOOM
SO HOW COULD I POSSIBLY...
MAKE IT MOVE IN A REAL BATTLE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HURRY !!
SHUUNG SHUUNG SHUUNG
!
WATCH OUT!

KABOOM
WUAAAH!

[*- BT: "BEAST TEAM" MOST LIKELY]

KUHOK~ W- WHAT IS THIS? IS THIS WATER?!

I- I'M GONNA DIE!

BT UNIT 7*! COCKPIT LIFE SIGNS, CONFIRMED!

IS THE PILOT SAFE?! OPEN A CHANNEL!

HM? I CAN BREATHE...

THIS ISN'T WATER??

!

M- MARI!!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
S- SHE WAS TRYING TO SAVE ME, AND..
BECAUSE OF ME...
BECAUSE OF ME...!!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

HAAH.
AT-07, DO YOU COPY?
HAAH.
AT-07, DO YOU COPY?
HAAH...
HAAH.
HAAH.
C- CAN'T BREATHE...!

HM?
CHOI IL-GUN AND JANG MARI?!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THE TWO OF YOU DOING THERE?!
THE ERASER IS FOCUSING ITS ATTACKS ON THE BEAST!
!!

BA-BOOM
BOOM BOOM
BOOM
HAAH!
HUK!
BA-BA-BOOM RUMBLE
COMM REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE!
DO YOU COPY, CHOI IL-GUN?! IF YOU CAN MOVE, EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!
HAAH!
HAAH!
IT- IT'S NO GOOD! I CAN'T... ANYMORE...
IT'S OKAY...
IT'S OKAY NOW...

OPEN
VOOOOM
HAAH.
CLENCH
HAAH.
I NEED TO GET A GRIP..! ISN'T THE BEAST THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT AGAINST THE ERASER?!
HAAH.
HAAH.
AND AFTER ALL THAT WISHING, I'M FINALLY INSIDE A BEAST.
MOVE! MOVE, I SAID!
OTHERWISE THIS GIRL'S SACRIFICE TO SAVE HER COMRADES WILL BE MEANINGLESS!!
MOVE!!
AH...

SNAP OUT OF IT!
AHHHHHHHHH
...WOULD YOU, REALLY?
OF OF
CHUAAAH
JUST DO SOMETHING, ANYTHING!!
THEN IT'S UP TO YOU, BEAST.

JIIIING
BOOOOM

RRRRRRRR
CRUNCH

URGH... OW OW OW...
HM? THAT'S ME.
REALLY, FAINTING AT A TIME LIKE THIS, HOW EMBARRASSING ...
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED JUST NOW?
UH?
HUH?

EHHHH?!
I'M...
I'M MARI
...?!!!

C-CATHERINE?
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED, BECAUSE INSIDE THE BEAST'S CORE,
WE ONLY HAD A CONSCIOUS MALE AND AN UNCONSCIOUS FEMALE...
XX CHROMOSOMES CONFIRMED INSIDE THE SPIRITUAL EGG! DECODING DONE, GOOD TO GO--
THE BEAST'S CORE, "BELLE", ACKNOWLEDGED!
PILOT SYSTEM, REBOOTED!
AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MOVE THE HEART OF THE BEAST...
RAWWWR
IS THE "BEAUTY".

KNOW
KNOW
TUK-TA-DA

OKAY

MAGIC 02. Change

DU-DU-DU-DU-DU-DU-DU

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, MISS HUMBLEY!
HAVE YOU COLLECTED THE ERASER WRECKAGE?
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, ONCE AGAIN.
JUST AS THE NAME SUGGESTS... THEY DON'T LEAVE BEHIND MANY TRACES OF THEMSELVES.
STILL, IT'S PRETTY RARE TO SEE SUCH A COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF THE ERASER.
IT REMINDED ME OF THE VERY FIRST BATTLE 10 YEARS AGO, WITH BEAST UNIT 1.
.....
AND MR. VINCENT?
CLIPPITY-CLOP CLIPPITY-CLOP
AH, HE'S...

SORRY I'M LATE, MISS BARBARY!
NEIIIIIIGH

A HORSE?
A WHITE HORSE?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME BARBARY!!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... WHY WASTE MONEY ON A PRIVATE PLANE IF YOU DO SUCH ABSURD...
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MY CUTE "DEVIL"?
IT'S SUCH A MAGNIFICENT STEED, WHO STILL CAUGHT UP TO YOU EVEN AFTER DROPPING OFF CATHERINE AT THE BASE....

HAVE YOU RECOVERED THE PILOT'S REMAINS FROM THE DESTROYED COCKPIT?
IT'S BEEN DONE.
AND WE'VE TRANSPORTED THE PILOT FROM THE OTHER COCKPIT TO THE BASE HOSPITAL.
BUT THE PROBLEM LIES WITH THOSE TWO STUDENTS WHO DESTROYED THE ERASER...
FOR NOW, IT'S BEEN CLASSIFIED A TOP-SECRET MATTER BACK AT THE BASE.
WELL, INSTEAD OF CALLING IT PURE LUCK, MAYBE WE SHOULD SAY IT WAS MEANT TO BE.
CATHERINE'S FORESIGHT WASN'T A BULLS-EYE, BUT...
WITH THIS, ONE THING IS CLEAR.
CHOI IL-GUN.
HE HOLDS THE KEY TO OUR VICTORY!

URGH...!
HIC...
IT HURTS...
SO DARK...
I'M SCARED... MOM... DAD...
WU... HIIIC...
DON'T BE SCARED, KID...
... WHO'RE YOU?
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ALONE...
IF YOU CAN, COULD YOU PUT YOUR HAND IN HERE?

SQUISH
WHAT IS THIS?
SO SMOOTH... AND SOFT...
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN A LITTLE?
THIS IS...
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE... SO THIS IS ALL THAT I CAN DO...
IF YOU'RE COMFORTED BY THIS...
YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND TOUCH IT, AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
BUT IN RETURN... COULD YOU PROMISE ME JUST ONE THING?
A REQUEST FROM ME...

PLEASE DON'T DIE BEFORE ME--!!
OPEN
AGAIN...
WAS IT THAT DREAM, ABOUT BACK THEN?
IT SEEMS MORE VIVID TODAY.
LIKE I STILL FEEL HER BREAST ON MY HAND...

HM?
WAS MY HAND... ALWAYS SO SLENDER?
...?!
벌
UP SUDDENLY
덥
WU...!
WUAAAAH~!!
W- WHAT?! W- WHA- WHAT IS THIS~?!!
물컹
SQUISH
WHY DO I HAVE A WOMAN'S BREASTS ...?!

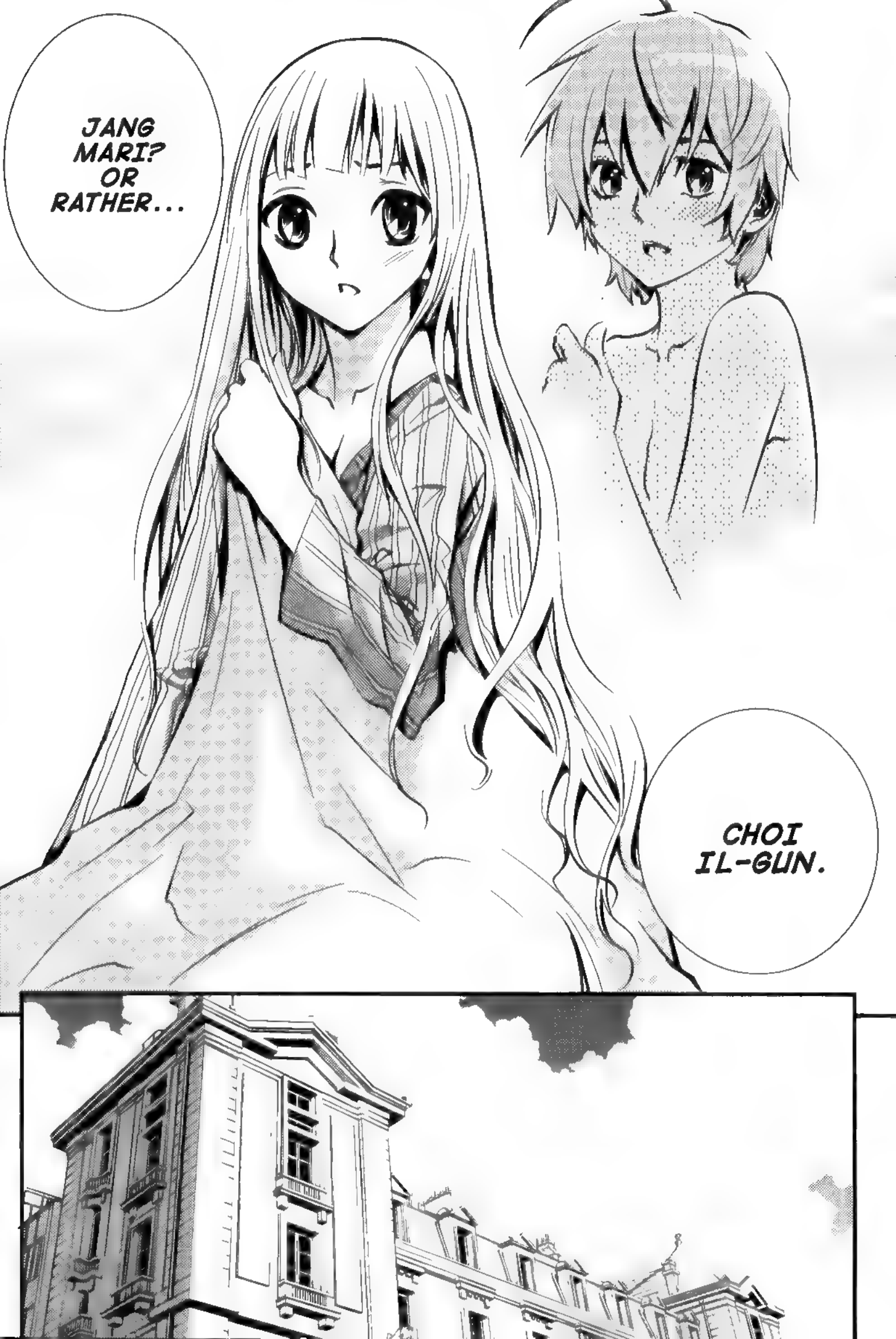
AH~♡
GASP
THIS CAN'T BE! IT FEELS SO REAL!!
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
IT- IT CAN'T BE... DOWN THERE, TOO...?!
FLAP
MIRROR! WHERE'S THE MIRROR?!

ACCORDING TO THE DOCTOR, HE SHOULD BE AWAKE BY NOW.
ZIING

スイ
CRACK...
AH...!
WU...!
WUAAAAAH~!!
AAAAAAHHHH!!!

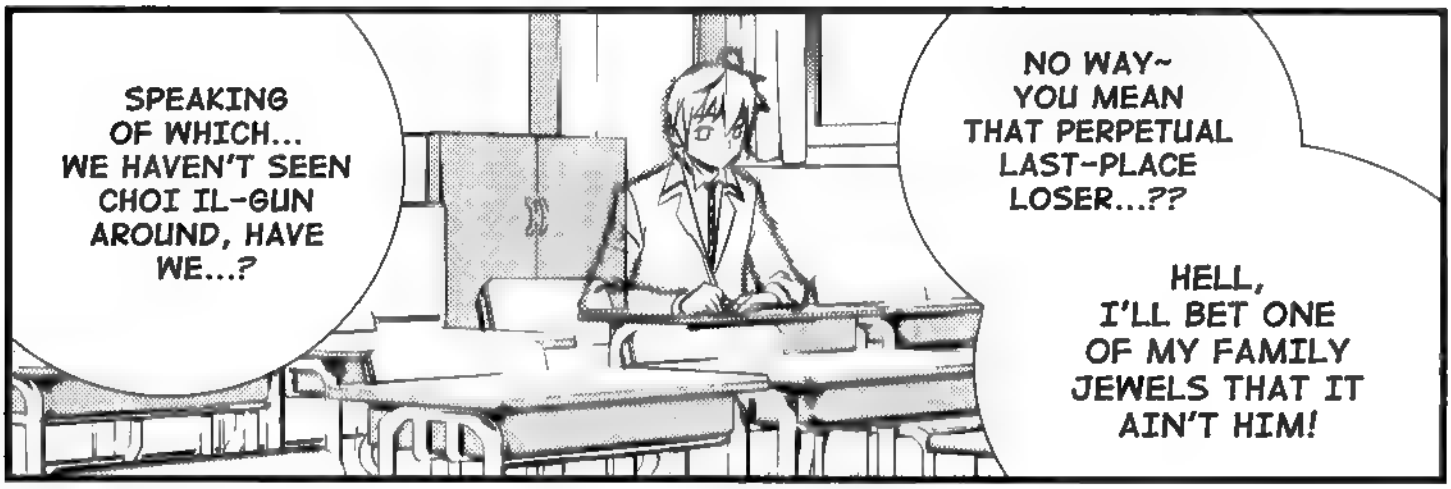
MA-
...!!
MAGNIFICENT ~!!
INDEED~! SUCH AN EXEMPLARY RESPONSE FROM A MAN WHO'S BECOME A WOMAN!!
EHH?!
FOR US MEN, THE FEMININE BODY IS THE SOURCE OF ROMANCE... AN IDEAL!
SUCH A PURE AND INNOCENT RESPONSE, AFTER BECOMING ONE WITH THAT EXISTENCE! I COULDN'T EMPATHIZE WITH YOU MORE...!!

FLASH
NOW THEN, TO CHECK WHETHER EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT IN THOSE PLACES YOU CAN'T SEE ON YOUR OWN...!
HA HA HA
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO PERSONALLY EXAMINE...!
M- MISS BARBARY!
I... I WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO KEEP HER... HIM... FROM PANICKING... JUST A LITTLE JOKE TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD...!
SQUIRM SQUIRM
PLEASE BE QUIET~!!
AND I TOLD YOU, IT'S "BARBARA"~!
UM... UHH...
I DON'T THINK I NEED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF ANEW TO A LE PRINCE STUDENT, BUT...
I'M BARBARA HUMBLEY. AND THIS IS THE HEADQUARTER OF MAGIC, THE ERASER BRIGADE.
I SUPPOSE THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME MEETING, ISN'T IT...
WHERE EXACTLY AM I?
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BODY?


JANG MARI? OR RATHER...
CHOI IL-GUN.

BEEP
BEEP
LOOK, THIS IS RIGHT AFTER THE ATTACK.
THE PILOT... WAS DEFINITELY EJECTED, WASN'T SHE?
AND THIS IS RIGHT BEFORE THE RE-ACTIVATION.
THAT UNIFORM IS DEFINITELY...!
WHAT~?! A STUDENT CONTROLLED THE BEAST?!
MURMUR MURMUR
SHE'S NOT ON THE INJURED LIST...
INJURED LIST
BUT SHE'S NOT AT SCHOOL, IS SHE?
SEEMS LIKE THE HIGHER-UPS ARE KEEPING IT HUSH HUSH, BUT...
THAT RIBBON, AND HER BACK...
IT'S JANG MARI, WITHOUT A DOUBT!
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SAYING IT WAS MARI WHO DEFEATED THE ERASER?!
AWE-SOME ...!
STEP
OF COURSE I'M SAYING THAT~! WHO ELSE IN THIS SCHOOL COULD OPERATE A BEAST BETTER THAN A REGULAR PILOT?!

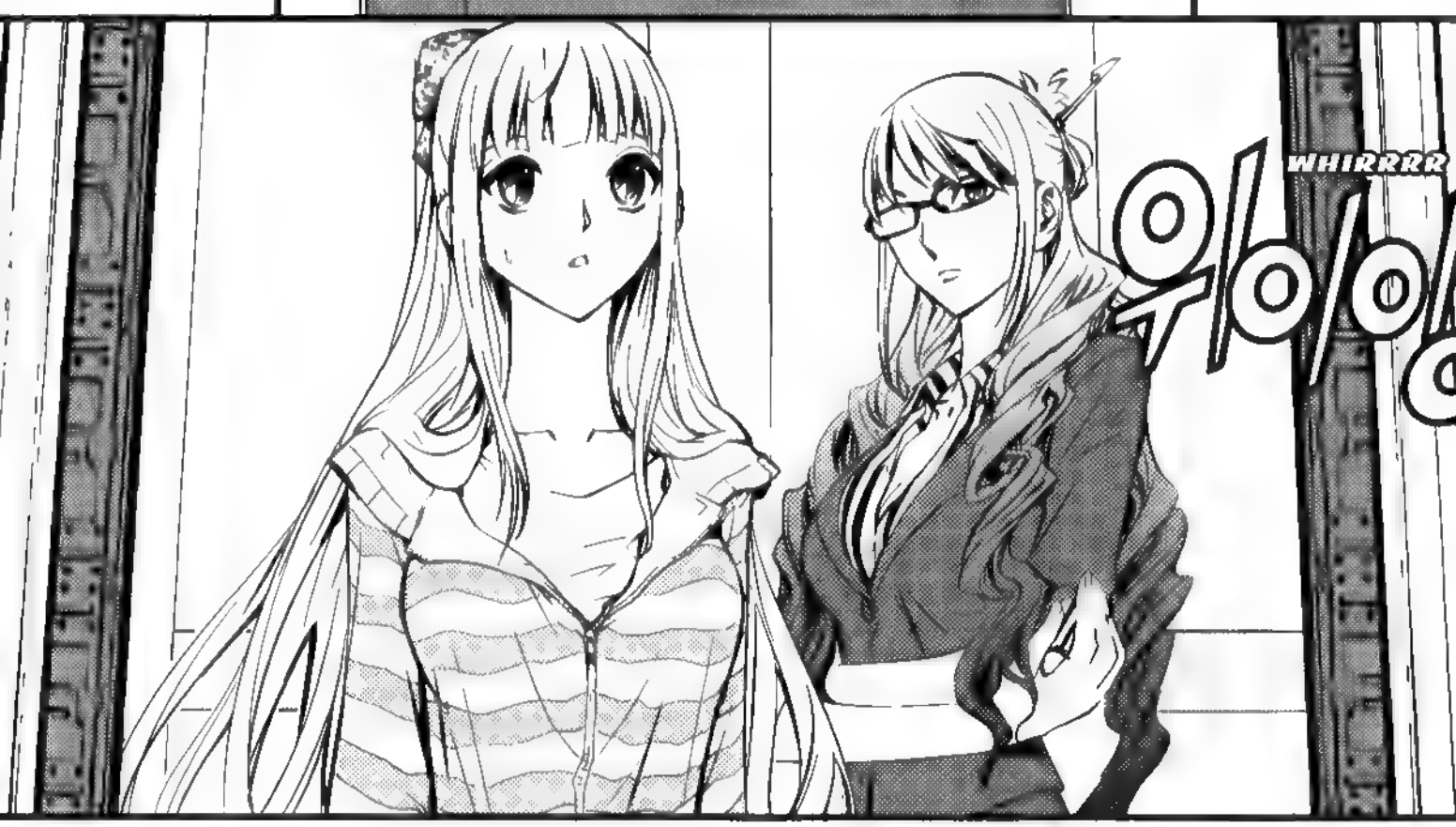
MOVE!
YOO... YOO HANA...?!
OH... OH YEAH, WE HAVE HANA AS WELL. RIGHT?!
IF SHE HADN'T BEEN SICK WITH A COLD, THEN DEFINITELY SHE COULD HAVE... RIGHT?!
GLARE
TIPTOEING AWAY
COME TO THINK OF IT...
YOU NEED 2 PILOTS TO MAKE THE BEAST MOVE, RIGHT?
SO IF THE ORIGINAL PILOTS WERE KILLED OR INJURED...
THAT MEANS THE MALE STUDENT IN THIS SCREEN CAP MUST HAVE HELPED MARI... SO WHO COULD IT BE?

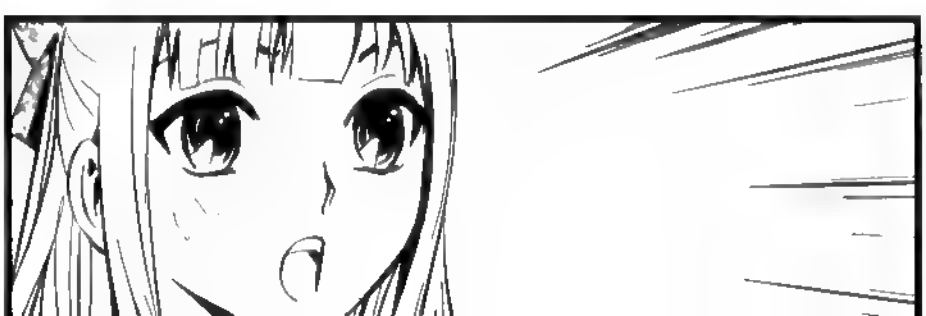

SPEAKING OF WHICH... WE HAVEN'T SEEN CHOI IL-GUN AROUND, HAVE WE...?
NO WAY~ YOU MEAN THAT PERPETUAL LAST-PLACE LOSER...??
HELL, I'LL BET ONE OF MY FAMILY JEWELS THAT IT AIN'T HIM!

I DON'T WANT TO BE PITIED BY THE LAST-PLACE LOSER!
THIS IS THE WORST...

VOOOOM-

GATE-03
DING


WHIRRRR



AH...!
AHHH...!

DON'T WORRY. THE INJURIES MAY BE SEVERE, BUT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...
ALTHOUGH YOU WOULDN'T LAST 10 MINUTES WITHOUT THE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM...
NO!! MY BODY, IT'S~~!!
BA-DUM

KA-DUM
KA-DUM
IT SEEMS YOUR MEMORIES OF THE BATTLE HAVE FINALLY RETURNED
T- THEN...
HAVE I REALLY CHANGED BODIES WITH JANG MARI?

AS LONG AS YOU AND JANG MARI ARE DEEPLY CONNECTED TO THE BEAST, IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO KNOW.
THIS CONCERNS THE BEAST AND ITS PILOT, OF WHICH THE GENERAL PUBLIC DOES NOT KNOW...
IT'S CLASSIFIED TOP-SECRET.
THE COCKPIT, WHICH SWITCHED YOU AND MARI, IS ACTUALLY...
SPIRITUAL EGG (BELLE USE-ONLY, IN CHARGE OF UNIT MOBILITY)
NORMAL SPIRITUAL EGG (IN CHARGE OF BATTLE RESPONSE)
THE CENTRAL COMPONENT THAT MOVES THE BEAST, CALLED THE "SPIRITUAL EGG" -- A PRODUCT OF "OVER-TECHNOLOGY" WHICH IS LEAPS AND BOUNDS AHEAD OF CURRENT HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.
AND A CERTAIN "CONDITION" MUST BE MET, WHERE...
ONE OF TWO COCKPITS MUST ALWAYS HAVE A FEMALE INSIDE, IN ORDER TO MOVE THE BEAST.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE "CONDITION" IS...
"A BEAUTY WHO CAN MOVE THE HEART OF THE BEAST" -- NAMELY, BELLE.

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, AT THE TIME OF THAT ACCIDENT...
YOU, A CONSCIOUS MALE, AND MARI, A BADLY INJURED AND UNCONSCIOUS FEMALE, WERE BOTH IN THE SPIRITUAL EGG.
BUT IN ORDER FOR THE BEAST TO FIGHT, THE CONDITION OF THE FEMALE BEING (BELLE) HAD TO BE MET...
THE BEAST -- HAVING BEEN PERSUADED BY US, AND BY YOUR WILL TO PROTECT YOUR SCHOOL AND COMRADES --
THEN TRANSFERRED YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS TO MARI'S BODY...
H- HOLD ON A MINUTE!! HOW CAN THE BEAST DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
ISN'T IT JUST A ROBOT?!
ANYTHING BEYOND THAT, I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T TELL YOU.
...!!
ALONG WITH YOUR UNDAMAGED BODILY TISSUE.

DIDN'T I SAY THAT IT'S A PRODUCT OF OVER-TECHNOLOGY...?
STRICTLY SPEAKING, THE BEAST IS NOT MAN-MADE.
ALTHOUGH MR. VINCENT WAS THE ONE WHO MADE IT SO THAT IT WOULD FIGHT AGAINST THE ERASER...
T- THEN...
DUE TO HER SEVERE INJURIES, SHE COULDN'T WITHSTAND THE SHOCK OF TRANSFERRING HER CONSCIOUSNESS.
IS JANG MARI SLEEPING INSIDE MY BODY RIGHT NOW?
UNFORTUNATELY ...
WHAT?! THEN WHERE IS MARI'S CONSCIOUSNESS ...?
MARI'S CONSCIOUSNESS ....

WOOOM
WOOOOM
IS CURRENTLY SLEEPING INSIDE THE BEAST.

WELL, CATHERINE? IS IT POSSIBLE TO RETURN MARI'S CONSCIOUSNESS?
I'M NOT QUITE SURE... YET...
SINCE THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED FOR THEM AS WELL...
MAYBE IT'LL TAKE A LONG TIME...?

I GUESS THIS WILL BE A COMPLICATED STORY FOR CHOI IL-GUN.
...BUT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...

BECAUSE HE WILL BECOME A TYPE OF BELLE THAT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
...AND THAT IS WHY...
THAT BEAST ABSOLUTELY NEEDS YOU.

CHOI IL-GUN. WE HEREBY REQUEST THAT YOU, AS "JANG MARI", BECOME A BEAST PILOT FROM NOW ON.
BOOM
IF ANYTHING, FOR THE SAKE OF FINDING A WAY TO RETURN BOTH OF YOU TO YOUR ORIGINAL SELVES!!

THANK YOU... FOR GRANTING THAT UNREASONABLE REQUEST...
BEAST.
IF WE RELEASE THE REMAINING 20 SEALS...
THEN ALL OF YOU... CAN TURN BACK TO YOUR ORIGINAL FORM...
TODAY'S ATTACK... WAS FROM A 2ND GENERATION ERASER.
IT WAS THE FIRST OUT OF 21 SEALS.
AND NOW, WITH THE LONG-AWAITED, NEWLY BORN BELLE...
THE REAL FIGHT HAS NOW BEGUN.

EXIT
MAGIC 03. 9th Corps

A WEEK SINCE THAT BATTLE.
THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN SOMEWHAT...
ZIIIIP
TIGHTEN
AND AFTER A WEEK OF "SPECIAL" TRAINING", I AM RETURNING TO LE PRINCE.
PULL
EXCEPT....

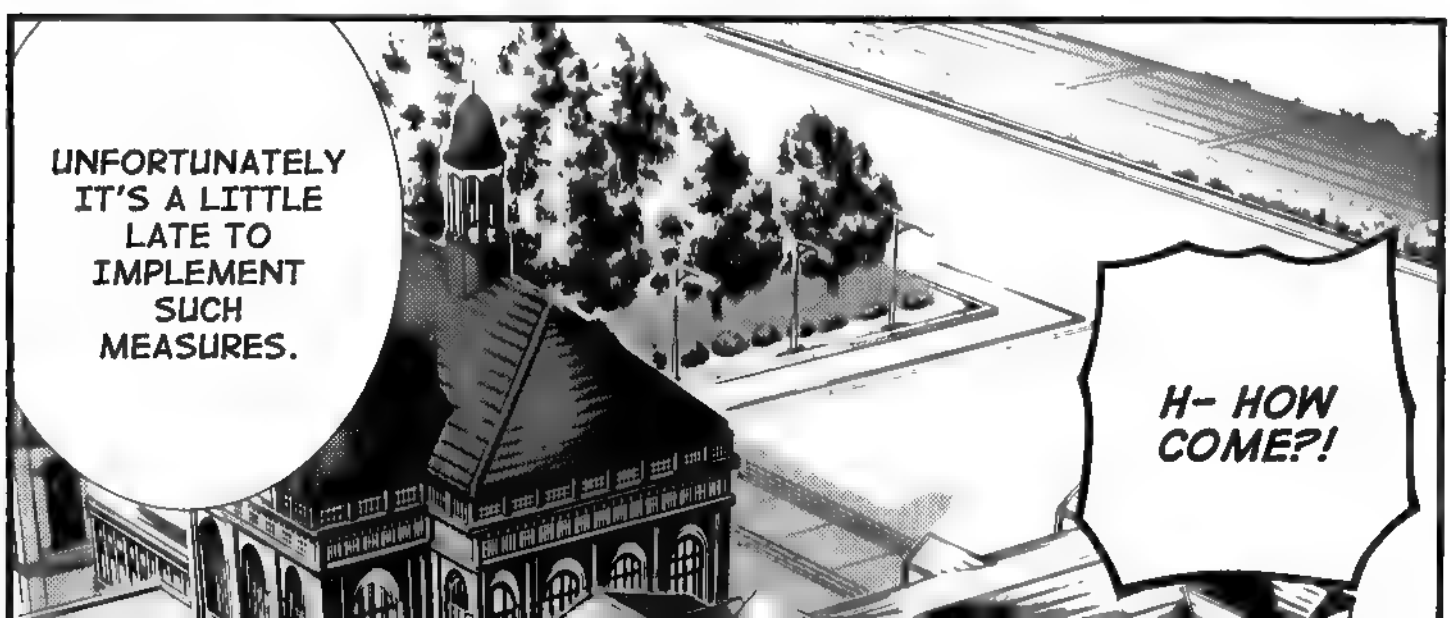
ARE YOU READY?
NOT AS CHOI IL-GUN, BUT AS JANG MARI--
OH... YES!
WAIT~!
?
FLIP
WHOA!

FAIL~!!
EHHHH~!
HOW DARE YOU WEAR BOXER SHORTS WHILE IN MARI'S FORM...!!
MY HEAD HURTS...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PURE-WHITE LACE PANTIES I SUGGESTED?!
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY WEAR SOMETHING SO SMALL AND FLUTTERY?!
AND THAT RESPONSE WHEN I FLIPPED YOUR SKIRT-- !!
"WHOA"??? I TOLD YOU MANY TIMES THAT IT'S "KYAAH", DIDN'T I?!

AT THIS RATE, ALL THE EFFORT THAT MISS BARBARY, DESPITE HER OLD AGE, PUT INTO TEACHING YOU "FEMININITY" WILL...!
빡
SNAP

I GUESS TURNING YOU INTO A WOMAN ON THE INSIDE IN ONE WEEK IS DIFFICULT.
I SAID IT WAS BARBARA!
TWITCH
QUIVER
YES, MA'AM...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! FOR ME, A GUY... TO ACT LIKE A WOMAN, LET ALONE MARI, THE STAR OF THIS SCHOOL...!
COULDN'T WE TAKE CARE OF THIS LIKE YOU DID WITH ME, BY SAYING MARI'S TAKING AN EXTENDED LEAVE FROM HER INJURIES?!


UNFORTUNATELY IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO IMPLEMENT SUCH MEASURES.
H- HOW COME?!

VROOM
부우우
THE NEWS THAT YOU, A PILOT CANDIDATE, AND ANOTHER STUDENT WERE IN THE BEAST HAS ALREADY SPREAD THROUGH THE STUDENT BODY...
AND SINCE YOU WERE ABSENT FOR A WEEK...
IT'S MARI...!
JANG MARI!
MARI'S COME BACK~!
MARI~!!

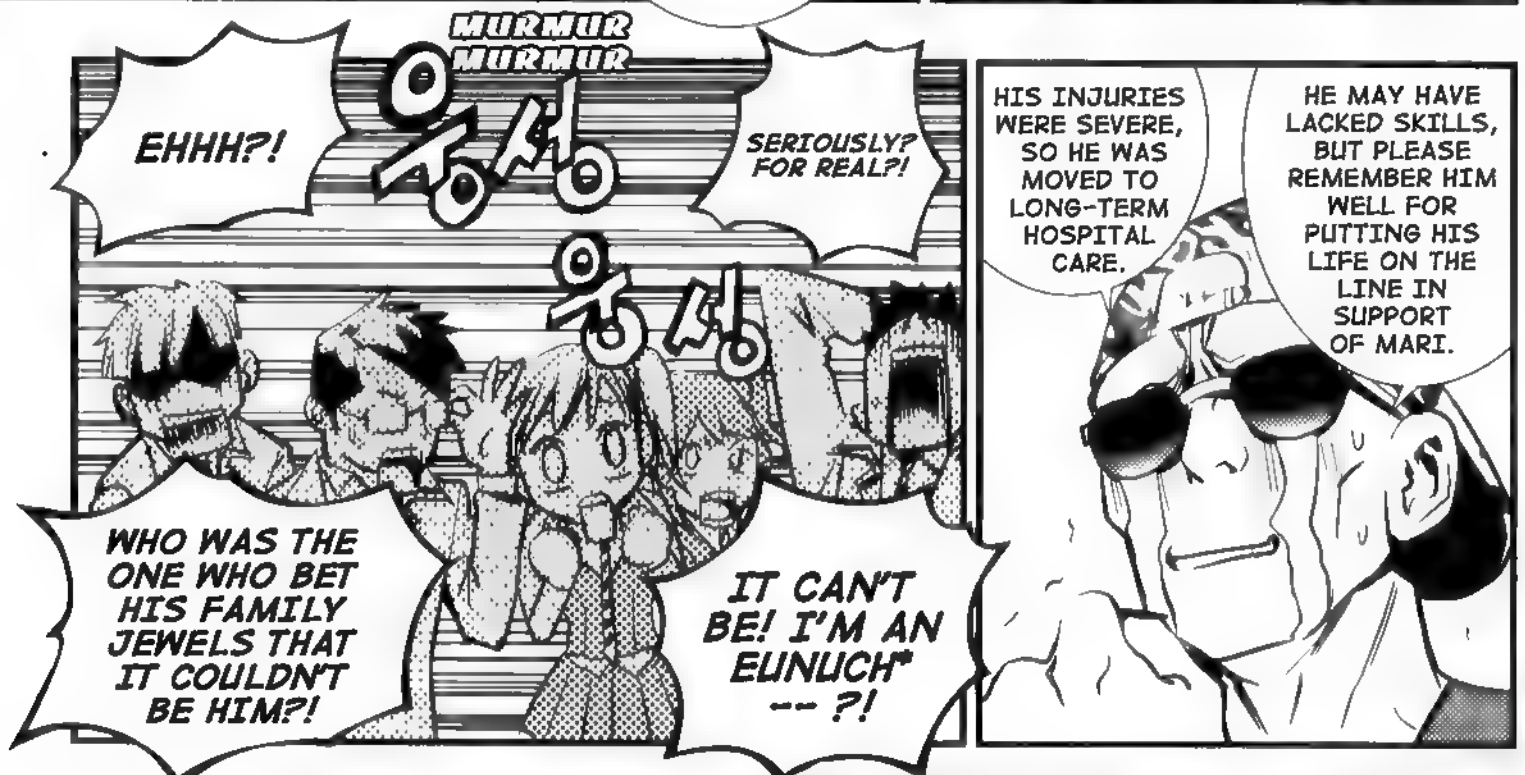
WHOAAAAAA
와아아아
THE RUMOR THAT YOU REPELLED THE ERASER DESPITE BEING INJURED...
AH... HAHA!
SOMEHOW GOT MAGNIFIED INTO A HEROIC TALE; AND EVERYONE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR MARI'S RETURN.

HOW WAS YOUR FIRST REAL BATTLE?!
NOISY CLAMOR SWARM
WHO WAS WITH YOU IN THE BEAST?!
YOUR THOUGHTS ON GOING UP AGAINST AN ERASER?!
IS THE BEAST VERY DIFFERENT FROM GASTON?!
YOU IDIOTS~! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GANGING UP ON A PERSON WHO JUST RECOVERED FROM HER INJURIES?!
SUDDENLY
SHOCK
GO BACK TO YOUR SEATS! CLASSES ARE STARTING SOON!!
RUN AWAY
WHEW
AND YOU, JANG MARI!!
AH, YES SIR...!
TAP

THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE TEACHERS.
FOR PROTECTING THIS SCHOOL.
THEY MAY BE INCONSIDERATE, BUT THEY'RE OUR PRECIOUS STUDENTS...
AND ABOVE ALL, THANK YOU FOR RETURNING SAFELY.
...THIS FEELS SO STRANGE.
THE REAL MARI SHOULD BE HEARING ALL THIS...

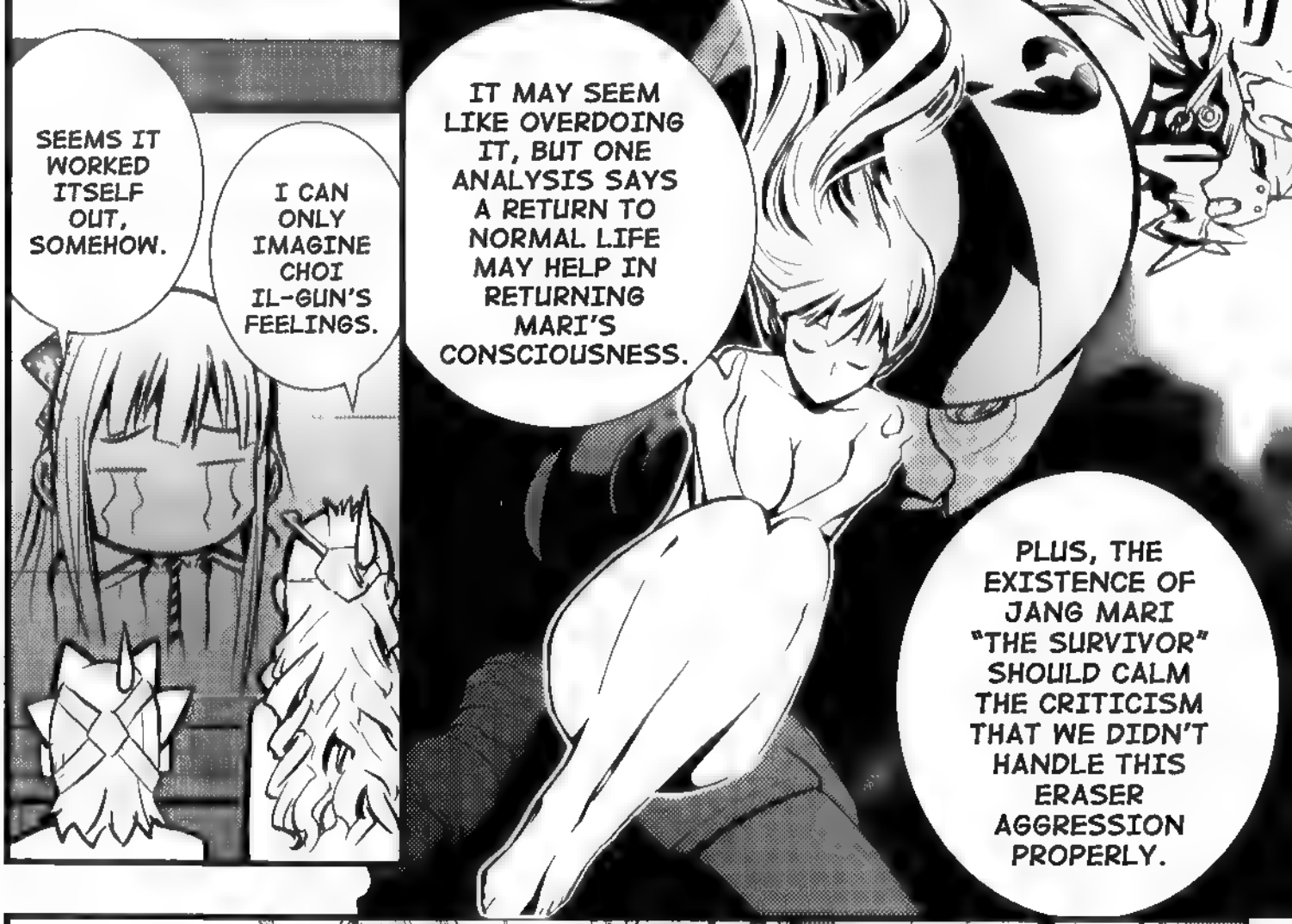
BUT MORE THAN THAT...
I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE COCKPIT AFTER MY BODY WAS SWITCHED!
AND IN MARI'S PLACE, I'D LIKE TO ADD...

THE IDENTITY OF THE MALE STUDENT WHO WAS IN THE BEAST WITH MARI,
JIING
73007018
HAS BEEN REVEALED AS CANDIDATE #73007018, CHOI IL-GUN, FROM OUR CLASS.


MURMUR MURMUR
EHHH?!
SERIOUSLY? FOR REAL?!
WHO WAS THE ONE WHO BET HIS FAMILY JEWELS THAT IT COULDN'T BE HIM?!
IT CAN'T BE! I'M AN EUNUCH* -- ?!
HIS INJURIES WERE SEVERE, SO HE WAS MOVED TO LONG-TERM HOSPITAL CARE.
HE MAY HAVE LACKED SKILLS, BUT PLEASE REMEMBER HIM WELL FOR PUTTING HIS LIFE ON THE LINE IN SUPPORT OF MARI.

[*- A CASTRATED MAN; SINCE HE BET HIS FAMILY JEWELS...]

[**- "SOOK YEON": A DOUBLE ENTENDRE; "SOMBER" OR "DESTINY / FATE" (BUDDHIST), AS IN "REST IN PEACE"]


SEEMS IT WORKED ITSELF OUT, SOMEHOW.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE CHOI IL-GUN'S FEELINGS.
IT MAY SEEM LIKE OVERDOING IT, BUT ONE ANALYSIS SAYS A RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE MAY HELP IN RETURNING MARI'S CONSCIOUSNESS.
PLUS, THE EXISTENCE OF JANG MARI "THE SURVIVOR" SHOULD CALM THE CRITICISM THAT WE DIDN'T HANDLE THIS ERASER AGGRESSION PROPERLY.

CATHERINE'S FORESIGHT NOTWITH-STANDING, THE FACT REMAINS: THE LOSS OF AN ABLE PILOT IS STILL A HUGE LOSS.
SO, THEN, SHALL WE GET GOING...
TO OUR OTHER BATTLEFIELD?

WHY DON'T WE?
OH, BUT BEFORE THAT...
GOTTA SEND A MORNING KISS PHOTO TO CATHERINE, WHO'S SLEEPING IN ♥
GRINDING HALT
KA-POW
CLICK

HAVE YOU SEEN MARI?! SHE'S NOT OVER HERE!
AW~ AND I WAS FINALLY GONNA ASK HER FOR AN AUTOGRAPH ...!

I FINALLY GOT AWAY FROM THEM~!
I GOT A BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS, AND WAS TOO BUSY REFUSING AUTOGRAPHS, THAT I COULDN'T EVEN GO TO THE BATHROOM DURING OUR BREAKS...

I REALLY GOTTA GO~!!
GRAB
HEEK~?!

CHZ%
DANGLE
AH... UM, I'M SORRY!
I'M IN A REAL HURRY, SO I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN AUTOGRAPH ...!
?
OH, YOU REALLY MUSTN'T, Y'KNOW...
YOU MAY BE IN A HURRY....
BUT THAT'S THE MEN'S ROOM, ISN'T IT?
AH~!
T- THAT COULD'VE BEEN BAD.
THE WOMEN'S ROOM IS OVER HERE.
OH, THANKS. YOU REALLY SAVED ME...
IT'S ALRIGHT.

IT'S CRIMINAL FOR A MAN TO ENTER A WOMEN'S ROOM, BUT WOMEN GO INTO THE MEN'S ROOM REGULARLY TO CLEAN, RIGHT?
THAT'S JUST THE JANITOR LADY, THOUGH. IF I DID THAT AS MARI, IT WOULD BE A HUGE SCANDAL~!

WHAT A UNIQUE GIRL. REALLY TALL, TOO...
GOOD MORNING!
OH... YES...
I NEVER KNEW OUR SCHOOL HAD A GIRL LIKE THAT... AND STRANGELY, SHE DOESN'T SEEM THAT INTERESTED IN MARI...

COME TO THINK OF IT...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LAST PLACE AND UNPOPULAR, AND DON'T KNOW ANY GIRLS...
SO, EVEN THOUGH SOMEONE MAY FIND OUT I'M NOT MARI...
KYAAH~ IT'S MARI~
STIFF MOVEMENTS
THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE WOULD FIND OUT I'M A MAN, THAT I'M ACTUALLY CHOI IL-GUN...

딸칵
CLICK
OR IS THERE --?!
DANGER! DANGER!!
OTHERS MIGHT NOT NOTICE, BUT IF IT'S HANA...!!

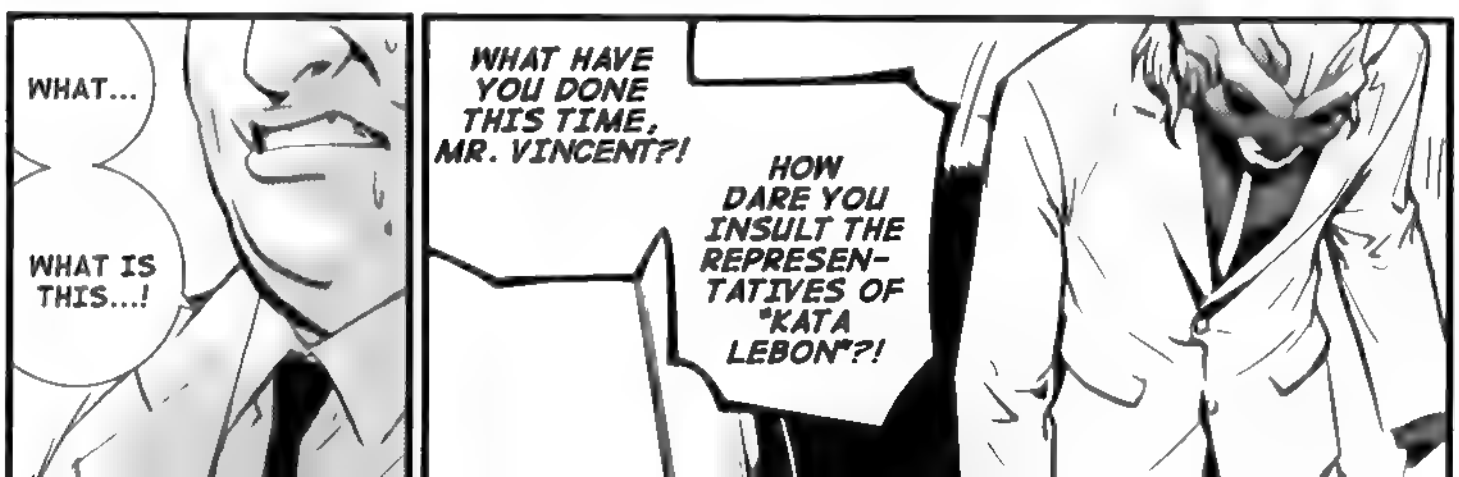
WHY ARE YOU BLOCKING THE WAY?
OH, SORRY...
OH NO
URGH!
FIRST, I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MORE URGENT MATTERS--!
FOR NOW...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK SAFE AND SOUND,
MARI...
OH... T-THANKS.
BECAUSE...
I WOULD HATE TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE, WITHOUT A PROPER SHOWDOWN.
--!!
I'M TELLING YOU NOW--

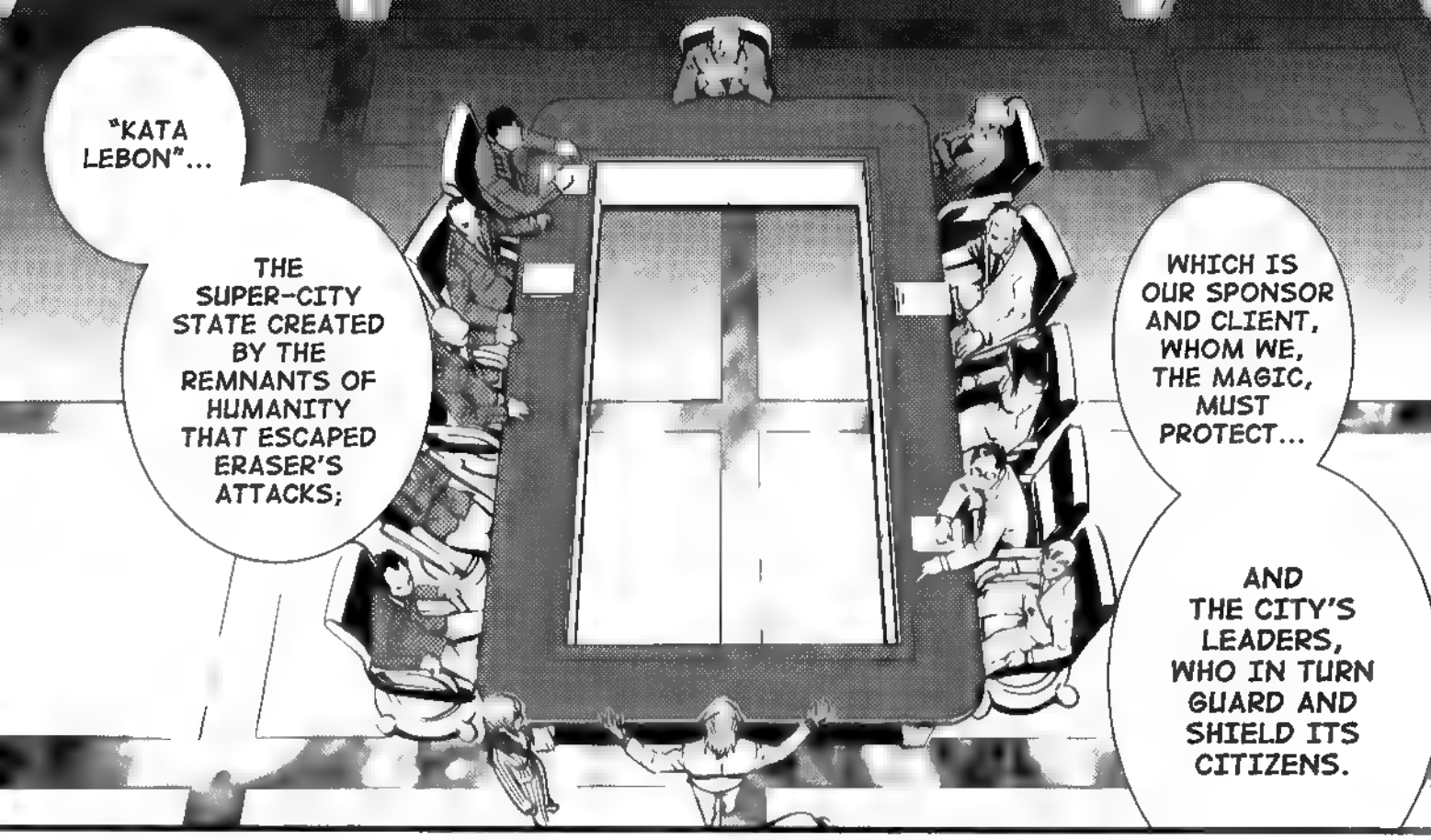
IF I HAD BEEN THE ONE IN THAT BEAST...
I WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY DESTROYED THE ERASER, TOO!
BUT THE COMRADE NEXT TO ME...!
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SEVERELY INJURED!!
HOLD ON, HANA. THAT'S TOO HARSH!
YEAH, IF MARI COULDN'T HELP IT, I DOUBT ANY ONE OF US WOULD HAVE DONE ANY BETTER~!

IF YOU GUYS KEEP UP THAT COMPLACENT ATTITUDE...
I DOUBT YOU'LL EVER GET TO THE TOP OF THE SCHOOL!
TURN
OH
SHE'S TOO FIXATED ON BEATING MARI, ISN'T SHE...
I KNOW, RIGHT...
WAS IT JUST ME?
OR WAS SHE MOMENTARILY WORRIED ABOUT "ME"...
NAH, IT COULDN'T BE.
HANA HAS ALWAYS HATED ME EVER SINCE WE WERE AT THE INSTITUTION.
BA-BOOM-
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY ...
I ENDED UP DOING MY BUSINESS AMONG ALL THESE GIRLS, WITHOUT REALIZING IT!

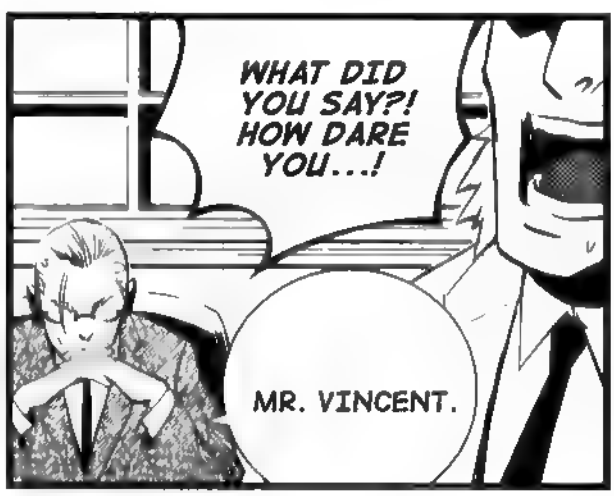
IS THIS MEASLY REPORT THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE TO SHOW, AFTER A WEEK?!
TO ALLOW AN ATTACK SO CLOSE TO THE BASE... I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
ARE YOU STILL BLAMING THE SURVEILLANCE GROUP?!
MURMUR MURMUR
WHO WAS IT THAT DECLINED THE STANDBY PILOTS, SAYING IT WAS ONLY ESCORT DUTY?!
WHAT ABOUT COMPENSATION FOR THE INJURED AND THE MISSING STUDENTS?!
AND WHY WAS THE GASTON SQUADRON SO LATE ...?!
DUE TO THIS INCIDENT, THE FUTURE BUDGET DELIBERATIONS WILL BE...!
ARE YOU TRYING TO PASS THE BLAME ONTO US?!
SIIIK
WELL, SHOULDN'T YOU TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR SCREWING UP?!
P-RESS

AHHH ~♡
ROOM
ETO
OPPA ♡ YOU'RE SO BAD~♡
AH, NOT THERE~!
HAH!
SILENCE~
HAH!
OPPA~ YOU'RE SO NAUGHTY ~♡

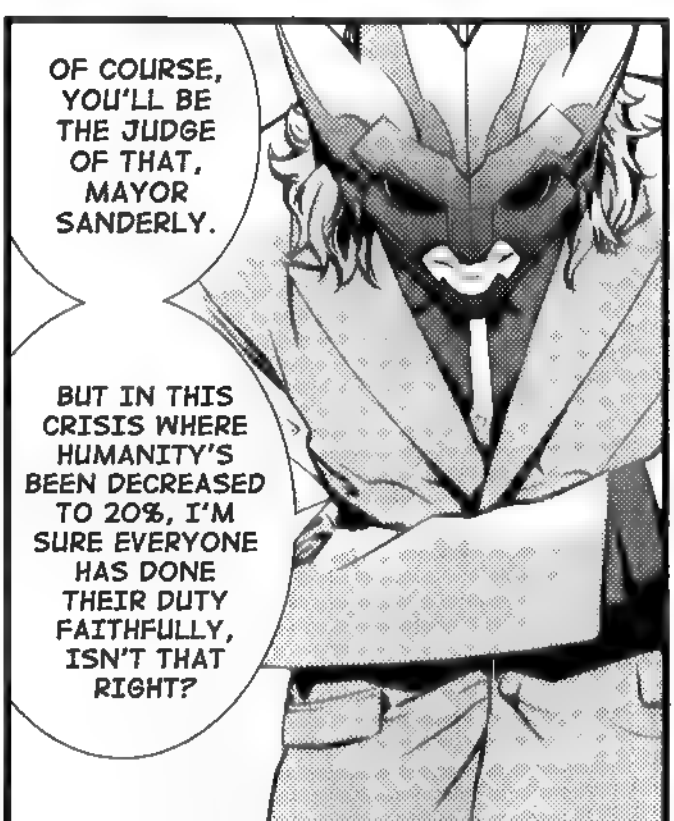

WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS...!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE THIS TIME, MR. VINCENT?!
HOW DARE YOU INSULT THE REPRESEN-TATIVES OF "KATA LEBON"?!


"KATA LEBON"...
THE SUPER-CITY STATE CREATED BY THE REMNANTS OF HUMANITY THAT ESCAPED ERASER'S ATTACKS;
WHICH IS OUR SPONSOR AND CLIENT, WHOM WE, THE MAGIC, MUST PROTECT...
AND THE CITY'S LEADERS, WHO IN TURN GUARD AND SHIELD ITS CITIZENS.

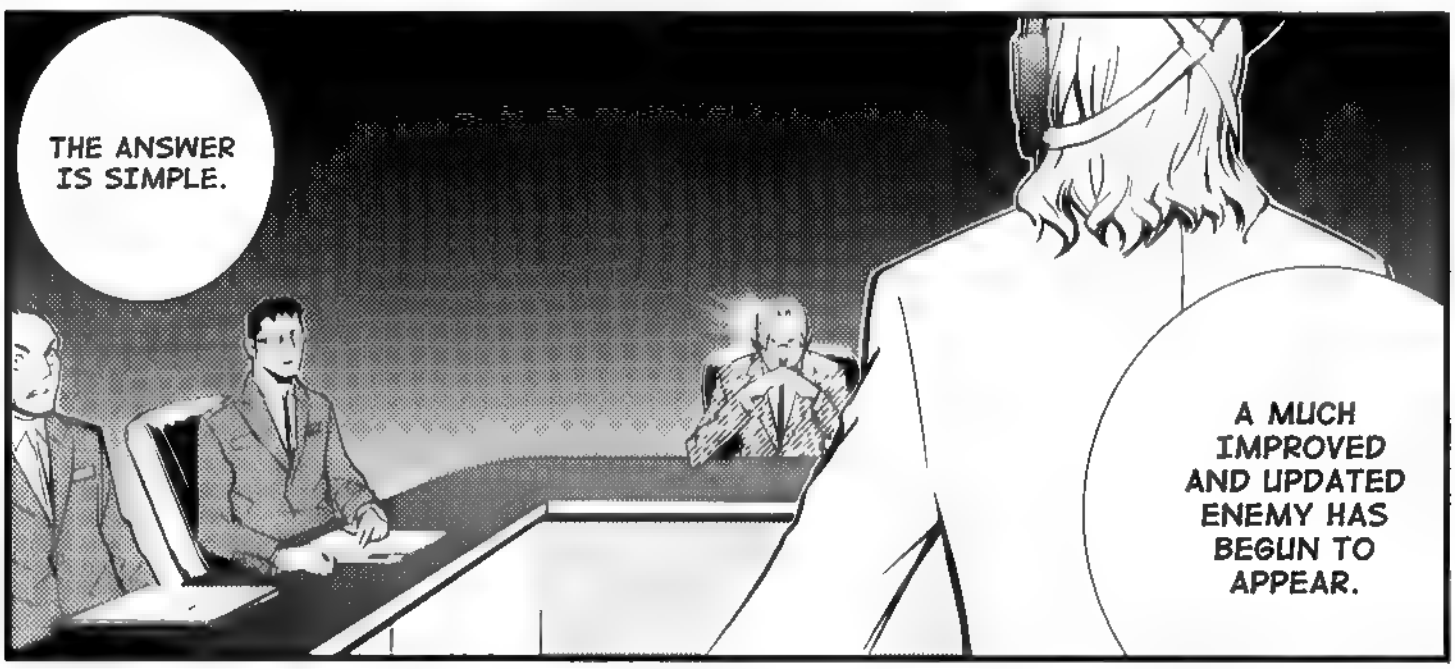
BUT YOUR CONVERSATIONS SO FAR...
ARE LESS "INVIGORATING" THAN THAT EROTIC VIDEO JUST NOW.


WHAT DID YOU SAY?! HOW DARE YOU...!
MR. VINCENT.

I ASSUME THAT THIS MEANS YOU ARE ABLE TO OFFER...
A MORE "INVIGORATING" ANSWER THAN WE CAN, IN THIS SITUATION.


OF COURSE, YOU'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT, MAYOR SANDERLY.
BUT IN THIS CRISIS WHERE HUMANITY'S BEEN DECREASED TO 20%, I'M SURE EVERYONE HAS DONE THEIR DUTY FAITHFULLY, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

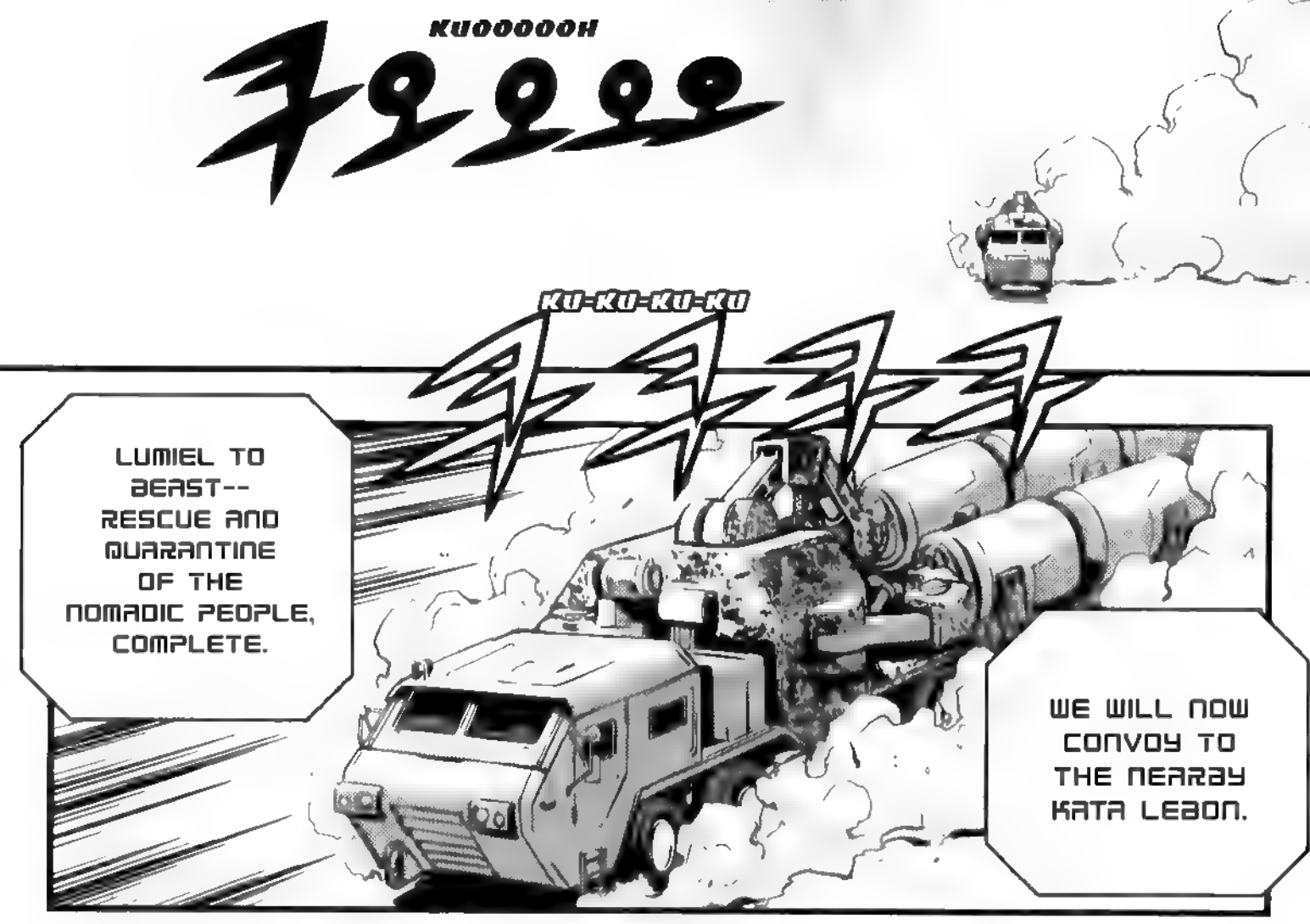
T-
THAT'S...
WELL...
YOU'RE
RIGHT,
OF COURSE.
AHEM...
BUT ISN'T
IT A FACT
THE ERASER
AVOIDED BEING
TRACKED BY THE
SURVEILLANCE
GROUP?
AND HOW DO
YOU EXPLAIN
THE BEAST'S
UTTER DEFEAT
IN THE FIRST
HALF OF THAT
BATTLE?

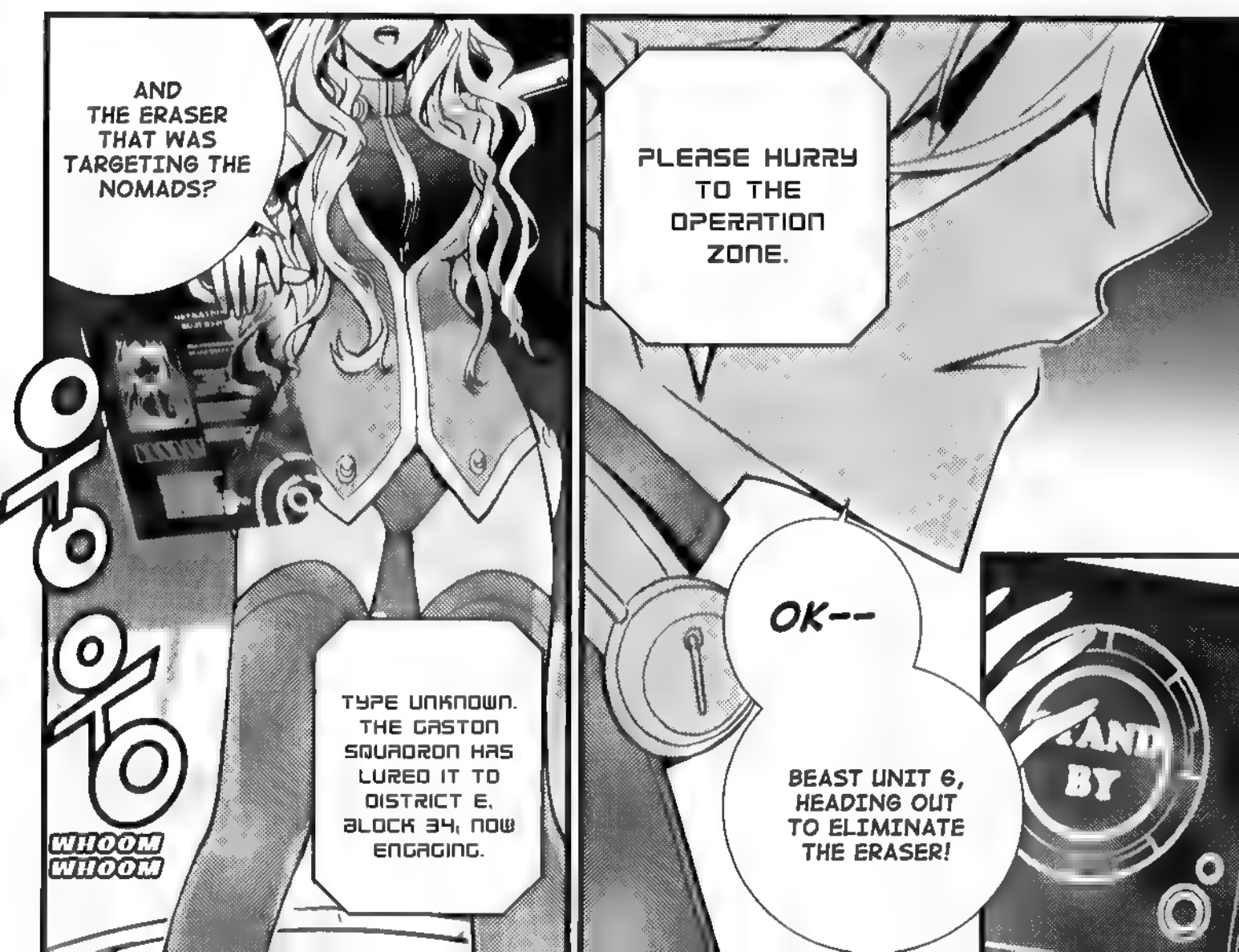

THE ANSWER
IS SIMPLE.
A MUCH
IMPROVED
AND UPDATED
ENEMY HAS
BEGUN TO
APPEAR.

MURMUR
YOU MEAN A
"NEXT
GENERATION"
ERASER?
BUT WHY
NOW, AFTER
10 YEARS OF
WAR AGAINST
HUMANITY?
CATHERINE
HAS ALREADY
CONFIRMED
THIS ENEMY'S
DEVIATION
FROM KNOWN
STANDARDS.

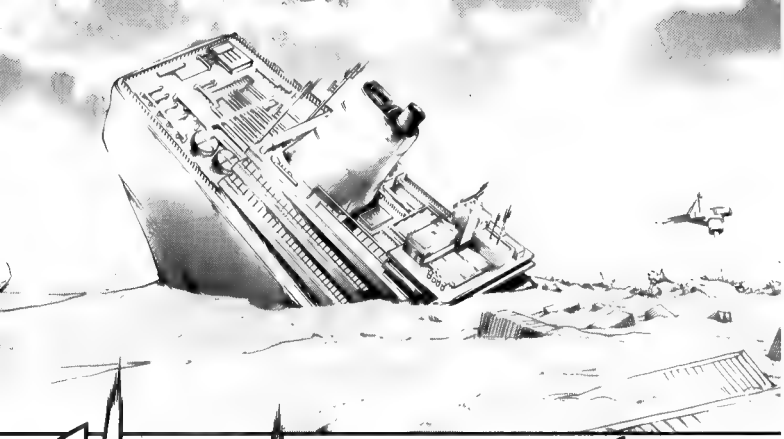
CATHERINE, AGAIN...?
SUUK
AND THIS IS WHY...
I WILL SAY IT AGAIN.
INSTEAD OF GETTING A SLOW TRICKLE OF INFORMATION FROM HER...
WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN HER PROPERLY, AS A PRISONER, AND...
I BELIEVE I ALSO SAID THIS CLEARLY BEFORE, MRS. BASKERVILLE.
SHE'S NOT A "PRISONER", BUT A "MESSENGER" --!
움찔
FLINCH
WELL, ASIDE FROM WHETHER SHE'S A "MESSENGER" OR A "MESSIAH"...
DO YOU HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVES?
I WILL ESTABLISH A NEW SQUADRON ...
DESIGNED TO COUNTER THE 2ND-GEN ERASER, AS WELL AS TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF BEAST UNIT 7.
A NEW SQUADRON, COMPOSED OF BELLES AND NEWBORN BEASTS THAT WILL COUNTER THE 2ND-GEN ERASER IN EARNEST--
IN ADDITION, I WILL ALSO UPGRADE THE CURRENT BEAST SQUADRON, BASED ON THE NEW ONE.

THE NINTH BEAST ...!
BEAST9
BEAST - The comando of second generation of [ERASER]
THIS WILL BE THE BIRTH OF THE BEAST 9!!


KUOOOOOH
KU-KU-KU-KU
LUMIEL TO BEAST-- RESCUE AND QUARANTINE OF THE NOMADIC PEOPLE, COMPLETE.
WE WILL NOW CONVOY TO THE NEARAY KATA LEAON.

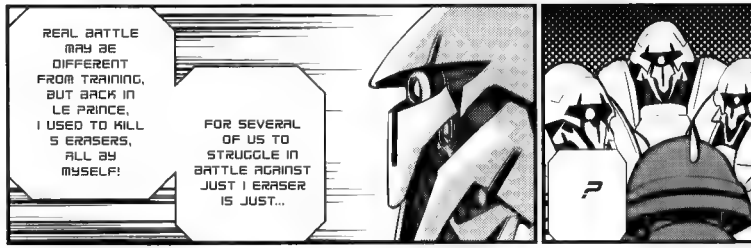

AND THE ERASER THAT WAS TARGETING THE NOMADS?
TYPE UNKNOWN. THE GASTON SQUADRON HAS LURED IT TO DISTRICT E, BLOCK 34, NOW ENGAGING.
WHOOM WHOOM
PLEASE HURRY TO THE OPERATION ZONE.
OK--
BEAST UNIT 6, HEADING OUT TO ELIMINATE THE ERASER!
STAND BY

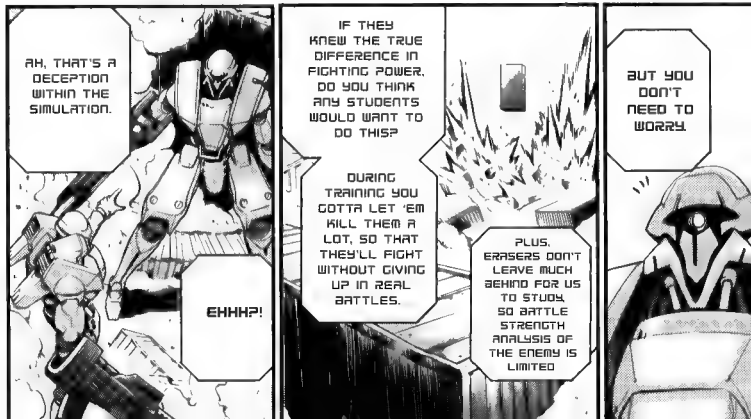
MAGIC 04. LUKE & JENNY



KA-BOOM

KA-BOOM
BOOM BOOM
ROOKIE, YOU OKAY?
Y- YES, I'M FINE!
WE'VE COMPLETED OUR MISSION, NOW THAT WE'VE LURED IT HERE, THE REST IS UP TO THE BEAST.
B- BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG, CAPTAIN!


REAL BATTLE MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM TRAINING, BUT BACK IN LE PRINCE, I USED TO KILL 5 ERASERS, ALL BY MYSELF!
FOR SEVERAL OF US TO STRUGGLE IN BATTLE AGAINST JUST 1 ERASER IS JUST...
?


AH, THAT'S A DECEPTION WITHIN THE SIMULATION.
EHHH?!
IF THEY KNEW THE TRUE DIFFERENCE IN FIGHTING POWER, DO YOU THINK ANY STUDENTS WOULD WANT TO DO THIS?
DURING TRAINING YOU GOTTA LET 'EM KILL THEM A LOT, SO THAT THEY'LL FIGHT WITHOUT GIVING UP IN REAL BATTLES.
PLUS, ERASERS DON'T LEAVE MUCH BEHIND FOR US TO STUDY, SO BATTLE STRENGTH ANALYSIS OF THE ENEMY IS LIMITED
BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY.

SINCE WE'RE ON THIS JOINT-OPERATION WITH..
LUKE AND JENNY OF THE BEAST UNIT 6, ONE OF THE TOP 3 UNITS...!
I'M A TOTAL FAN! IN FACT, THEY'RE THE REASON I ENLISTED IN MAGIC...
HEY, STOP THE CHITCHAT, AND DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!
ROOKIE! ABOVE YOU--!!
OHHHH~!!
EH?

WU...!
PA-PA-PA-PA
WUAAAAAH --!!
BA-BOOM

OH NO...
ROOKIE .!
D- DAMMIT! WE'RE ALL DEAD!!

Let of
Let of
Let of

콰르릉
RUUUMBLE
파지직
PA-CHING
PA-CHING
파지직
POW
펑
펑펑
펑
KA-POW POW

CRUNCH
KA-PA-PA-POW

DISTRICT E, BLOCK 34, ERASER ELIMINATED.
DU-DU-DU
ANALYZING ATTACK PATTERN... NO CHANGE DETECTED. STILL CLASSIFIED AS 1ST-GENERATION.
DAMAGE REPORT.
GASTON UNIT 1 COMPLETELY DESTROYED. PILOT, DECEASED...
AND I TOLD HIM NOT TO LET HIS GUARD DOWN, TOO....

.....
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED, LUKE.
WE WERE LATE BECAUSE WE FOUND MORE NOMADS WHO HADN'T EVACUATED. WE HAD TO MOVE THEM TO SAFER GROUND BEFORE COMING HERE.
DOES THAT MEAN THAT FOLKS WHO CHOOSE TO LEAVE KATA LEBON BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE IT...
ARE STILL HIGHER PRIORITY FOR PROTECTION THAN SOLDIERS?

IF IT WERE MARI...
SHE WOULD HAVE ANGRILY YELLED, THEY BOTH HAVE TO BE SAVED.
OH, DID YOU HEAR? THE CANDIDATE WHO PILOTED BEAST 7,
AND FOUGHT THE 2ND-GEN ERASER WAS YOUR MARI.
THANKS TO THAT, I HEAR SHE'S BECOME A HEROINE AT LE PRINCE.
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY SHE ENTERS MAGIC.
SHE WAS NEVER ORDINARY, TO BEGIN WITH.
MOST LIKELY... SHE'LL GROW UP TO BE A RIVAL FOR A PLACE AMONG THE TOP 3.

REALLY? BUT I DOUBT SHE'LL WANT TO BE SEEN BY YOU AS A RIVAL, THOUGH.
WHAT?
WHATEVER. YOU THICKHEADED MAN...

IN ANY CASE, I NEVER VISITED HER IN THE HOSPITAL... SO I THINK I'M GONNA GO SEE HER AFTER THIS MISSION.

HAVE YOU BECOME MORE LADY-LIKE, I WONDER?
MARI...

BA-DUM
BA-DUM

MURMUR
HEY, HAVE YOUR BREASTS GOTTEN BIGGER?
A SWIM CLASS --!!
THAT I'D HAVE TO... MARI'S SWIMSUIT...? IN THIS BODY...?!

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY EXTRA HAIR BANDS?
MURMUR

C- CALM DOWN. I'M A WOMAN NOW. A WOMAN NAMED JANG MARI!

HERE I THOUGHT I COULD REST EASY, WITH THE COCKPIT SIMULATION FINISHED...
BUT WHO KNEW SUCH A TRIAL AWAITED ME...

KYAAAAH~!!
EH?

LOOK... MARI--!
MARI HAS A NOSEBLEED!!
WHAT?!

THAT'S REALLY BAD! SHE'S STILL NOT FULLY RECOVERED FROM HER INJURIES!!
MARI, YOU CAN SKIP THIS CLASS! NURSE!!

IN A BLANK DAZE
I CAUSED A MISUNDER-STANDING THERE.
FEELIN' A LITTLE REGRET...
IT'D BE GREAT IF I COULD SKIP THE PRACTICAL LESSONS THE SAME WAY...
WAKE UP, CHOI IL-GUN! DID YOU FORGET WHY YOU ARE AIMING FOR MAGIC, THE REASON YOU ENTERED LE PRINCE?!
PLUS, DON'T FORGET YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE SCHOOL'S NO.1, JANG MARI!!
IF MARI GETS POOR MARKS BECAUSE OF ME...
IT MIGHT BECOME MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO JOIN MAGIC, LET ALONE FIND A WAY TO RETURN TO OUR ORIGINAL SELVES!
MR. VINCENT SAYS HE'S GOT EVERYTHING COVERED, BUT...
CAN I REALLY TRUST HIM?
IT'S A GOOD THING THERE AREN'T ANY PRACTICAL TESTS FOR A WHILE...
BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...
THE REASON WHY THE SWIMMING LESSONS ARE MANDATORY FOR PILOT TRAINEE PROGRAM...
IS IT BECAUSE OF THE BEAST'S COCKPIT?

Eh
TAP
CHURRRR

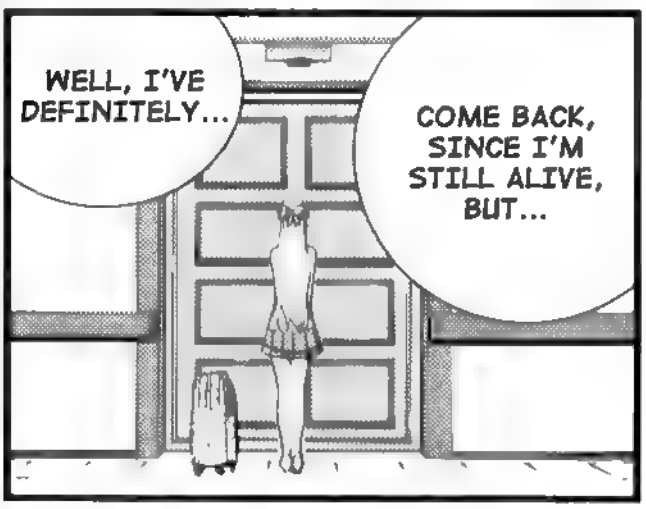
GLANCE
SHOCK
58 SECONDS.
HANA, THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU. ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL PHYSICALLY?
IT'S JUST...
I DON'T FEEL LIKE TRYING, SINCE I HAVE NO REAL COMPETITORS.
SERIOUSLY...
I'M SO GLAD I'M SKIPPING THIS CLASS.
AHAHA...
BUT THE COMRADE NEXT TO ME...!
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SEVERELY INJURED!!
WAS SHE DISAPPOINTED THAT "MARI" DID NOT PROTECT HER "COMRADE"?
SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORRIED FOR "ME", COULD SHE?

THIS IS CHOI IL-GUN. LIKE YOU, HE'S HERE AT THIS INSTITUTION BECAUSE HE LOST HIS PARENTS TO THE ERASER.
HANA, WHY DON'T YOU LOOK AFTER HIM UNTIL HE GETS USED TO THIS PLACE?
LISTEN TO ME...!
FOR KIDS LIKE US WITHOUT PARENTS, WE FIRST HAVE TO BECOME STRONG, IN ORDER TO SURVIVE OUT THERE!
BOOK BAGS!
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY TWO EASILY!
MOPPING UP!
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLEAN THIS ALONE, EASILY!
HANG UP THE FUTON, ALONE!
CLEAN UP THE DESK, ALONE!
YOU'RE BAD~!
YOU'RE PUSHING THESE THINGS ONTO ME, BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THEM, RIGHT?!

HOLD ON, HANA~!
I'M SORRY! LET ME OUT...!!
BE QUIET! THIS IS PUNISHMENT FOR TALKING BACK TO ME!
REFLECT ON YOUR ACTIONS WHILE YOU'RE INSIDE!
쾅
BAM BAM
쾅
NO~!
IF I'M STUCK INSIDE LIKE THIS, THEN I'M... I....!
OH MY GOD~! ARE YOU OKAY, CHOI IL-GUN?!
HOW COULD YOU?! HE HAS CLAUSTRO-PHOBIA!!
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER PROPERLY ABOUT IL-GUN'S CONDITION!!
I-GUESS-THE ONLY TIME HANA WAS-EVER WORRIED ABOUT ME...
WAS THAT ONE-TIME, BUT STILL....
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?
THAT WATER THERE! GIVE IT TO ME...!

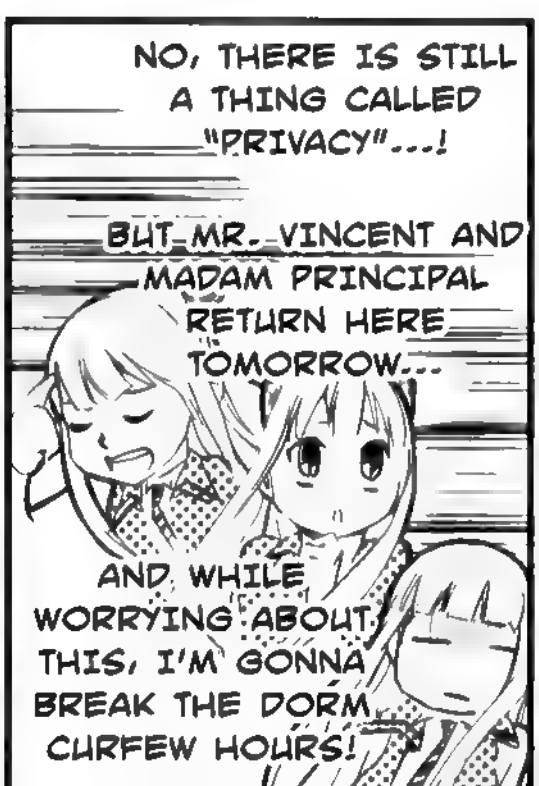
EH? OH, YEAH.
WHAT THE... YOU'RE SPACING OUT LIKE YOU'RE OFF ON SOME PICNIC.
IF YOU WERE GONNA SKIP CLASSES,
DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO COME BACK AFTER YOU'RE TOTALLY RECOVERED?
AH...
THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME...
PBBT
?
??
?
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA! WHO SAYS I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU?!
I ONLY WANT TO HAVE A SHOWDOWN AGAINST YOU WHEN YOU'RE PERFECTLY HEALTHY---!

AND YOU...
MAKE SURE CHOI IL-GUN'S SACRIFICE ISN'T WASTED!
AH, HE'S...
WELL, IF IT'S THAT GUY, THEN...
NO MATTER HOW INJURED HE IS, AS LONG AS HE'S STILL ALIVE...
HE'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK TO THIS PLACE.
'CUZ HIS ONLY STRONG POINT IS NOT KNOWING WHEN TO GIVE UP...
D- DID SHE JUST PRAISE ME??
KOOOOM


WELL, I'VE DEFINITELY...
COME BACK, SINCE I'M STILL ALIVE, BUT...

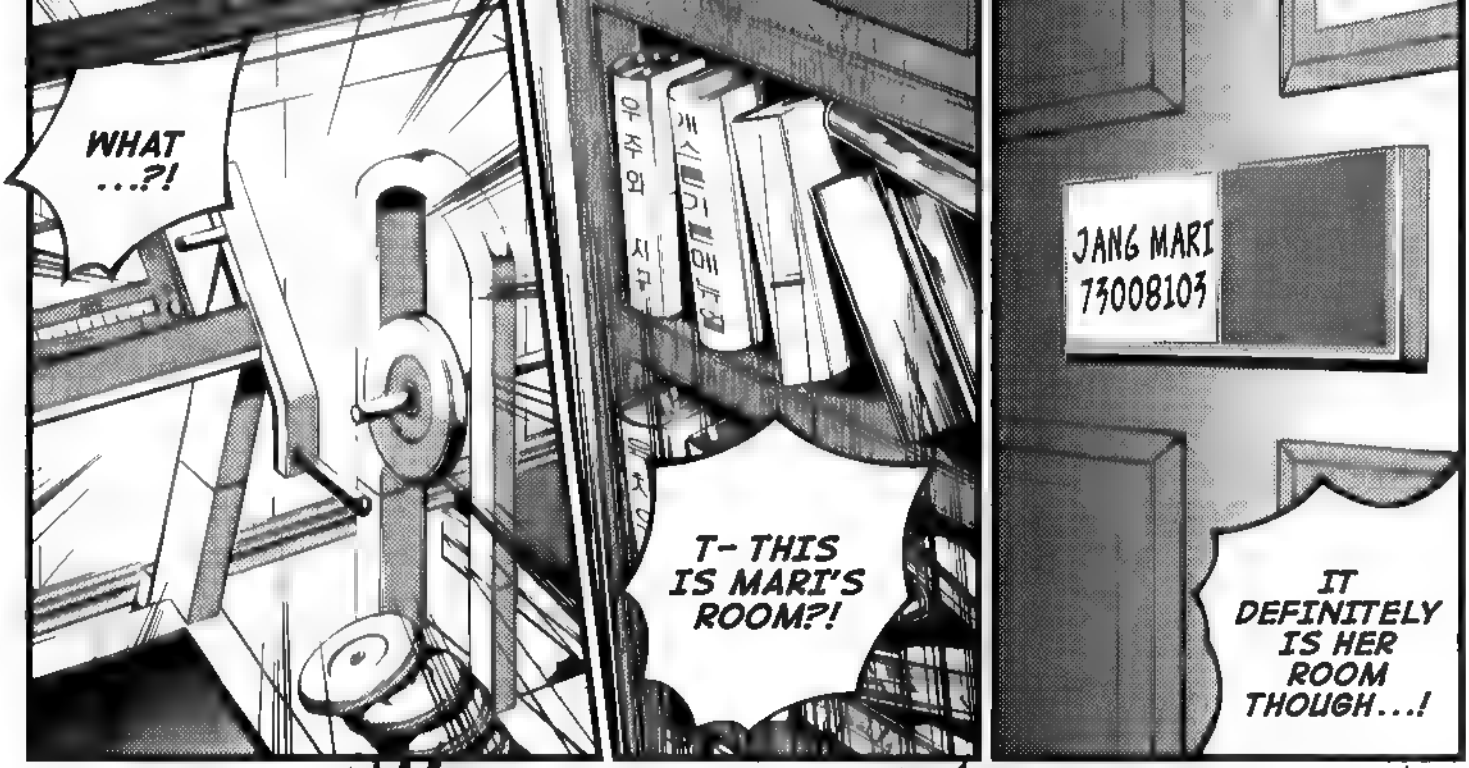
GRANTED, FOLLOWING HER ORIGINAL LIFESTYLE PATTERN MIGHT HELP RETURN MARI'S CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT...
JANG MARI
73008103
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO LIVE IN MARI'S DORM ROOM??

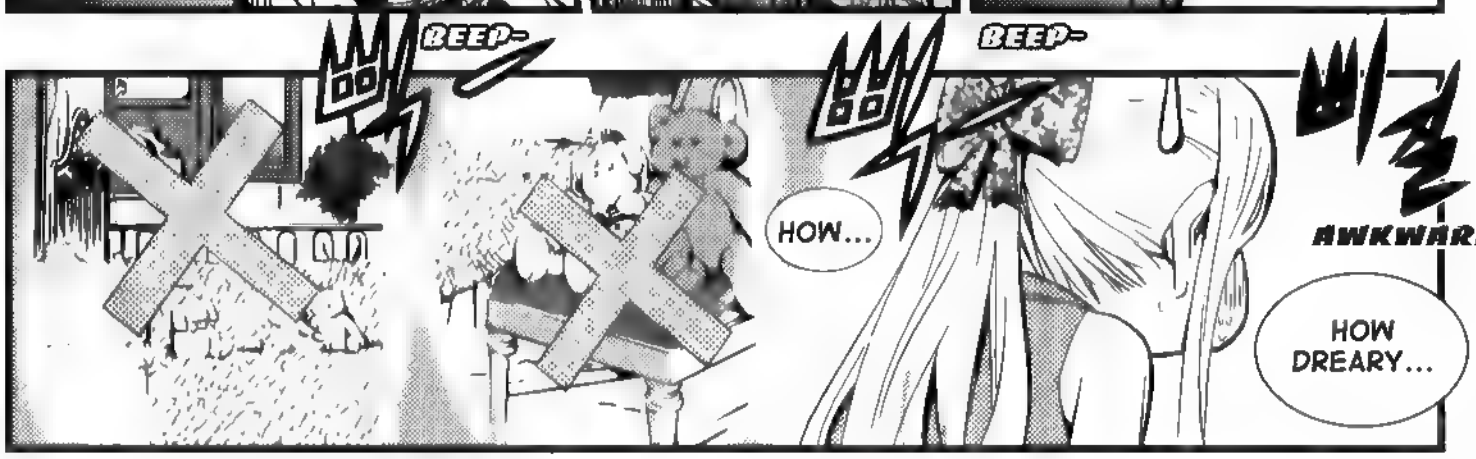
BUT IF IT'S MARI'S ROOM....
THEN... VERY LADY-LIKE ...?

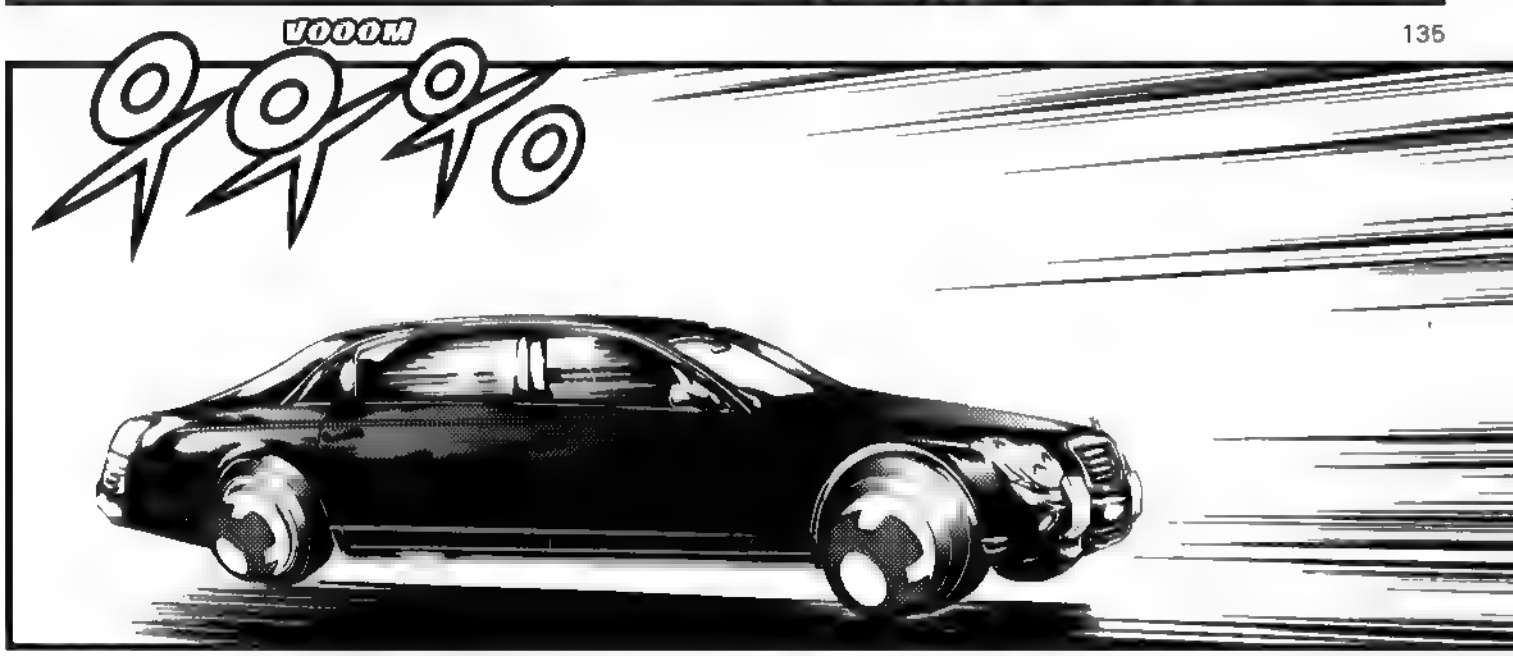

NO, THERE IS STILL A THING CALLED "PRIVACY"...!
BUT MR. VINCENT AND MADAM PRINCIPAL RETURN HERE TOMORROW...
AND WHILE WORRYING ABOUT THIS, I'M GONNA BREAK THE DORM CURFEW HOURS!

SORRY, MARI!
JJING
THIS IS FOR THE SAKE OF RETURNING TO OUR-SELVES--!

CRASH
GAAH?!
OW OW OW~
WHAT...
WHAT HAPPENED?
EH...?
BOOM


WHAT ...?!
T- THIS IS MARI'S ROOM?!
JANG MARI
73008103
IT DEFINITELY IS HER ROOM THOUGH...!


BEEP-
BEEP-
HOW...
AWKWARD
HOW DREARY...

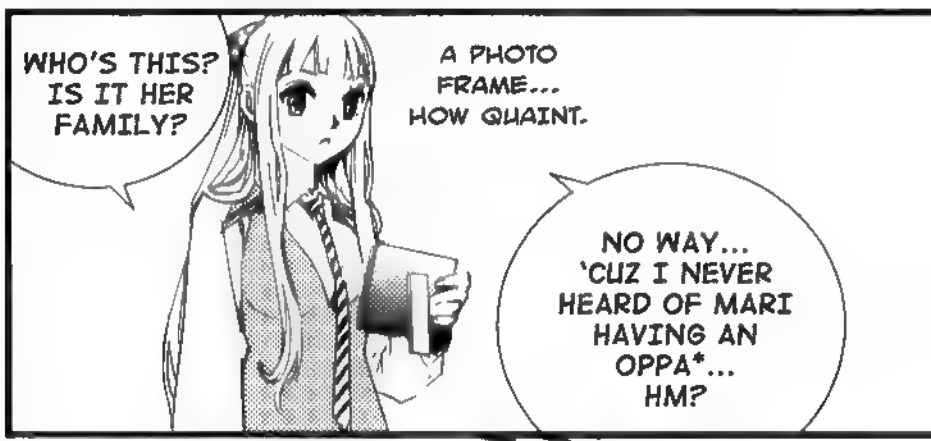

VOOOM

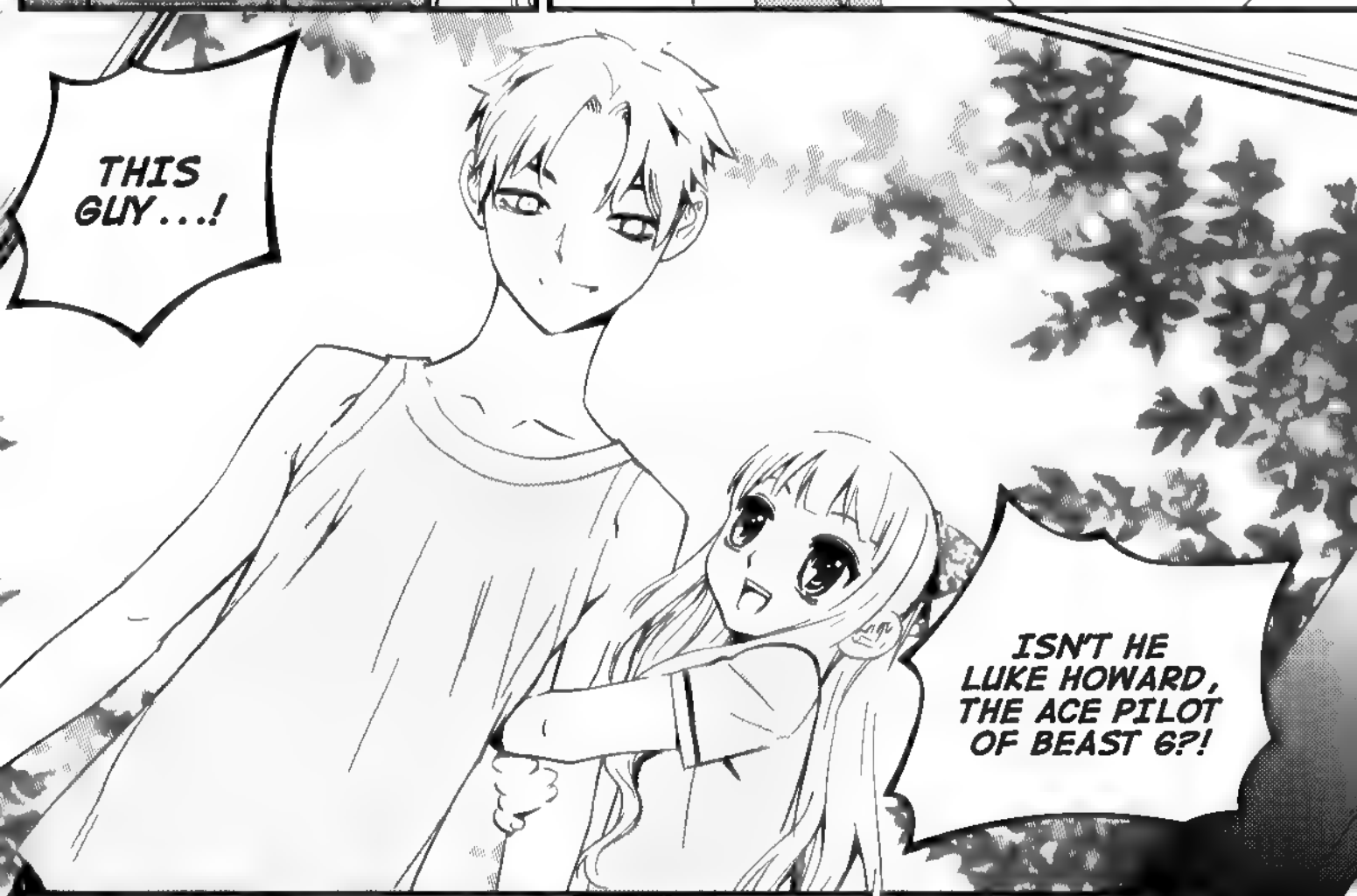
WHY ARE YOU SO FIDGETY, MISS BARBARY?
IT'S BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE I FORGOT TO GIVE CHOI IL-GUN SOME INFO ON MARI, THAT'S ALL...
AND IT'S BARBARA~!!

IT'S THE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET.
BUDGET
GAAH!
ANYWAYS, WE FINALLY HAVE THE PERMIT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW SQUADRON.
978,345,521
IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO PULL FUNDS OUT OF MRS. BASKERVILLE, BUT...
THE ONLY THINGS LEFT ARE THE MODIFICATION OF THE 9TH BEAST AND MEMBER SELECTION FOR THE NEW UNIT.
YOU'RE INCORRIGIBLE.
HAVEN'T YOU DECIDED ON AT LEAST ONE MEMBER ALREADY...
VOOOOOOM
WHOAA~
WHAT IS UP WITH THIS SELF-IMPOSED KILLER SCHEDULE...?!
HAS SHE BEEN DOING THIS MUCH SELF-TRAINING, ON TOP OF TRAINING IN SCHOOL?
AND IN HER BATH, TOO...
SHE'S PUT UP PAGES FROM TRAINING MANUALS!

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY MARI DOESN'T HAVE A ROOMMATE.
장마리
73008103
THERE'S NO WAY REGULAR STUDENTS COULD EVER FOLLOW MARI'S LIFESTYLE PATTERN...

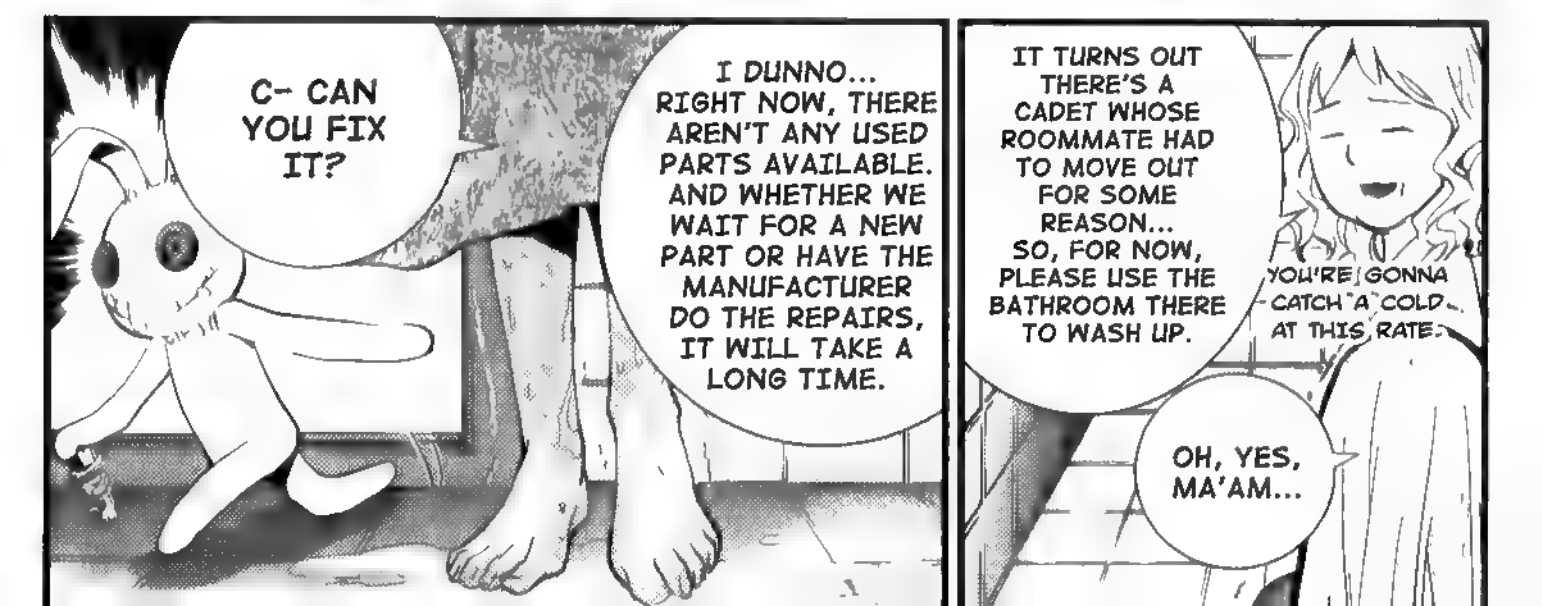
[*- "OLDER BROTHER" FROM A GIRL'S POV]

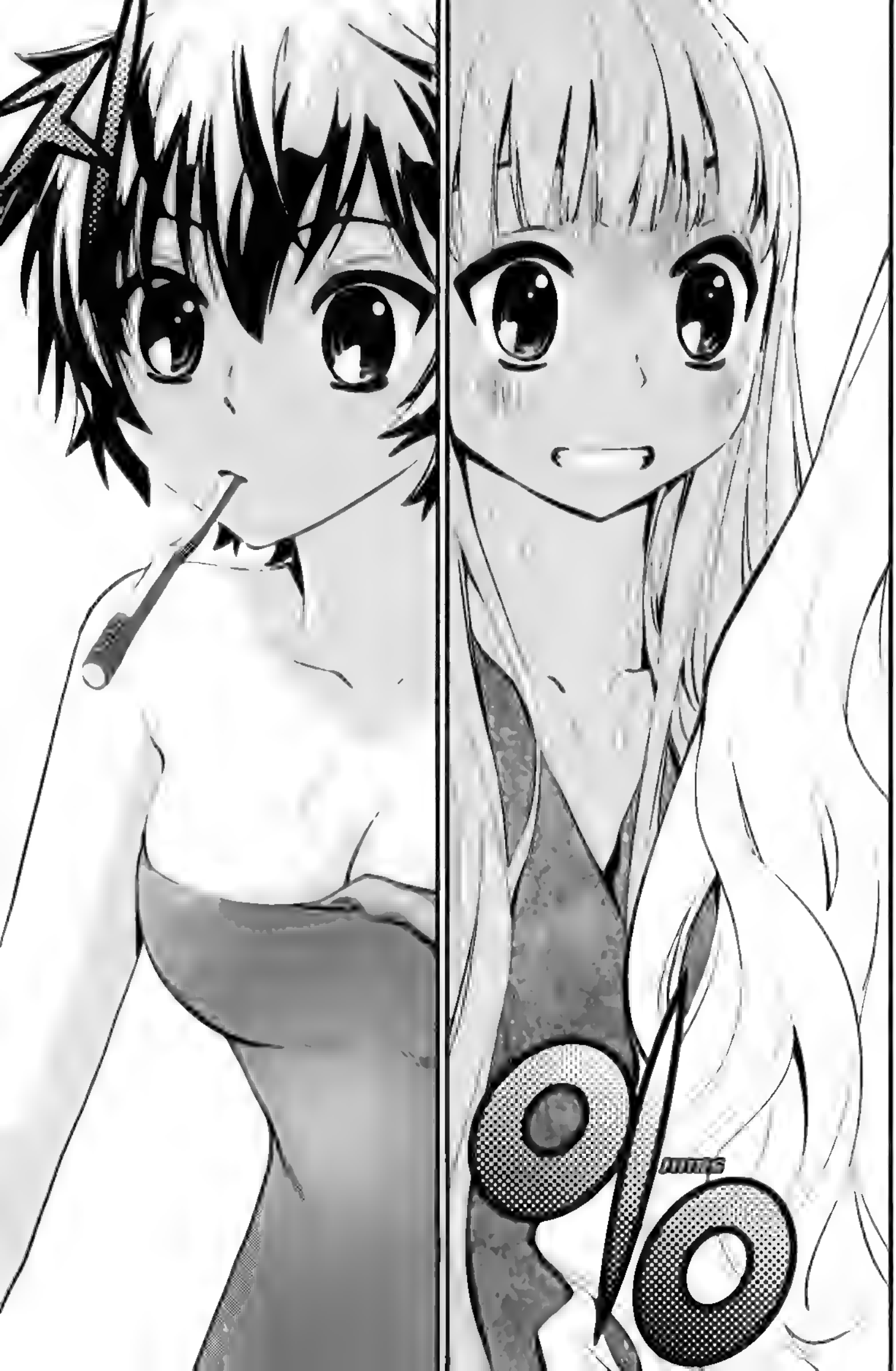




FLOP
AT THAT MOMENT...
AN IMAGE CAME TO MY MIND OF MARI AFTER SCHOOL IN HER ROOM, MEMORIZING MANUALS AND TRAINING HARD.
DUE TO HER LOOKS AND HER UNIQUE CHARISMA, AND THE FACT THAT SHE WAS ALWAYS #1...
MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING MYSELF, IDOLIZED HER AS A GENIUS; HOWEVER...
THE REALITY WAS VERY DIFFERENT.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER, BUT...
SHE'S NOTHING MORE THAN A REGULAR GIRL WHO TRIES ENDLESSLY TO REACH HER OWN GOALS.

SOMEHOW...
I FEEL LIKE I CAN NOW BE MORE COMFORTABLE ABOUT BEING "MARI"...
SNIFF SNIFF
WU... I SMELL OF SWEAT...
I GOTTA WASH UP BEFORE TURNING IN.
SHWAA
AH, SO COLD!!
SHIVER SHIVER
HOW STRANGE! THE HOT WATER SYSTEM IS MISSING A PART COMPLETELY.
IT'S A SEMI-PERMANENT PART, SO IT SHOULDN'T JUST GO MISSING... BUT IT'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.


C- CAN YOU FIX IT?
I DUNNO... RIGHT NOW, THERE AREN'T ANY USED PARTS AVAILABLE. AND WHETHER WE WAIT FOR A NEW PART OR HAVE THE MANUFACTURER DO THE REPAIRS, IT WILL TAKE A LONG TIME.
IT TURNS OUT THERE'S A CADET WHOSE ROOMMATE HAD TO MOVE OUT FOR SOME REASON... SO, FOR NOW, PLEASE USE THE BATHROOM THERE TO WASH UP.
YOU'RE GONNA CATCH A COLD AT THIS RATE.
OH, YES, MA'AM...



WELL, I DON'T REALLY MIND...
THANK YOU, HANA.
UH...
WHY? WHY?
WHY DO I KEEP GETTING INVOLVED WITH YOO HANA?!
MUST-NOT-LOOK! MUST NOT LOOK! MUST-NOT-LOOK!
BUBBLE BUBBLE

IT... IT'LL BE FINE. JUST HAVE TO GET THROUGH TONIGHT.
AND TOMORROW, MR. VINCENT WILL HAVE THIS ALL WORKED OUT SOMEHOW.
CHUAA
NO PROBLEM --!

HEY, DIDN'T YOU SKIP CLASS TODAY BECAUSE OF A NOSEBLEED...
SHOULD YOU STAY IN THE BATH FOR SO LONG?
COME ON OUT!
SHWAA
THERE ARE A LOT OF PROBLEMS ~!!
SPLASH
Y- YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY, THIS MUCH IS FINE...
I TOLD YOU ALREADY NOT TO MISUNDER-STAND, RIGHT?

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
BUT IN FOUR DAYS, IF YOU SKIP OUT ON THE PRACTICAL RE-TEST DUE TO YOUR HEALTH, THEN I WON'T GET TO HAVE A PROPER SHOWDOWN AGAINST YOU.
EH...?
KUOOOH
BOOOM

HOW IS THE OPERATION GOING?
FOR NOW, IT'S GOING SMOOTHLY.
JUST NOW WE SUCCESSFULLY SEPARATED UNIT 7'S SPIRITUAL EGG.
NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE HAD AN EXCHANGE OF SPIRITUAL EGGS BETWEEN THE BEASTS.
WELL, THIS IS A SPECIAL CASE, OF COURSE...
WHEN WILL YOU FINISH THE TRANSPLANTATION INTO UNIT 9?
I THINK WE'LL BE DONE IN FOUR DAYS.
FOUR DAYS...
THUS FAR I'VE AWAKENED ONLY 8 BEASTS...

I WONDER IF, IN FOUR DAYS' TIME, THE AWAKENING ROAR OF THE NINTH BEAST...
KUOOOOOH
WILL SIGNAL THE MAGIC'S VICTORY IN THIS LONG-FOUGHT WAR...

EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT. WE'VE EXAMINED AND RE-EXAMINED THIS PROCESS MANY TIMES.
RIGHT. THEN KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
PA-CHIK
HM? JUST NOW...
RE-...!
RE-TEST?!
WHOA...!
SPLASH

IT'S IN FOUR DAYS...
WHEN THE ERASER ATTACKED LAST TIME, PARTS OF THE DATABASE FOR THE PRACTICAL TEST WERE DESTROYED.
SINCE IT WAS A SIMPLE TEST OF MARKSMANSHIP IN THE GASTON, THEY JUST DECIDED TO RE-TEST US.
THIS TIME, I'LL DEFINITELY BEAT YOU --!
T- THIS IS BAD!!
FOUR DAYS...
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...
BELLE ...